

Howland Wood - Curatorial

Gifford Carleton S.
[Boston, MA]

includes:
envelopes
of rubbings

(F1)
1921-1923

front tab of original folder

Gifford, Carlton S.

Have a copy
of Baldwin's
war medals,
& bill sent

"
Mr C. S. Gifford
340 Commonwealth
Boston

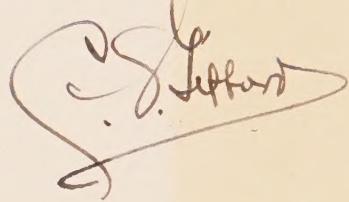
340 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE

Dear Mr. Wood:

What day- afternoon or evening- will
be convenient to look my humble collection over?

I think you said you were returning to New
York on the 15th. Do let me know a time to suit
yourself. Do you happen to know whether Wheeler
received the Victory I sent him.

Faithfully yours

A handwritten signature in blue ink, enclosed in a heart-shaped outline. The signature reads "S. Jafford".

2/7/21

My telephone 9-2 pm. is
Beach 2560

340 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE

Dear Mr. Wood:

I finally located H.D.Sleeper's address in a 1917 Blue Book as 386 Beacon St. I wrote him immediately but without result so far. If you have a later address will you let me know? Mr. Gillingham came to Boston yesterday and we spent, as you may imagine, a delightful afternoon and evening "medalling". I think he is a very fine man and we seem to hit it off splendidly in many directions. I am very grateful to you for making our original meeting possible.

Have you in mind to send me a copy of that work on American medals? I enclose an impression of a medal with a snip of its ribbon received today from London. It was billed as "Deathshead-Army" extremely rare". My man in London is not given to superlatives and seldom does he describe anything thus. What this is, I have no idea except that the one word there on seems to be Gaslic or is it the badge of the Russian Battalion of Death? The year 1919 rather disposes of the recent war unless in Russia.

Has the Society the large copper cent (?) 72 mm. with Indian head on obverse and "Souvenir Penny of the Copper Country" on reverse?

When possible let me hear from you. I did so enjoy your visit.

Faithfully,

2/28/21

C. Gifford

February 23rd, 1921

C. S. Gifford, Esq.
340 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, Mass.

My dear Mr. Gifford:

I want to thank you for a most pleasant evening spent at your house a short time ago. I certainly did enjoy looking over your War Medals, and want to congratulate you about the way you have gone about it, and the remarkable and interesting specimens you have acquired.

I am sending to you our correspondence with Henry D. Sleeper. This includes copies of the citations, etc. which you may like to copy. Please return the letter and copies when you are through with them. I trust you will be able to locate Mr. Sleeper - and better still, get hold of one of the Field Service Medals.

Under separate cover, I am having sent to you our brochure on United States War Medals.

Very truly yours,

Curator

H.W/B
Enc.

send complementary copy of Belden's Reprint
Feb 26, 1921.

340 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE

If not customary - send one with my compliments - the bill + to me.
His address "Commander Captain Worling D.S.O., R.N.
Admiralty (Plans Division) London S.W. 1.
PLANS"

Dear Mr. Wood:

Strange our letters crossed. Thanks so much for sending the American Service data. I looked Mr. Sleeper up today at 50 State Street and found he had been and would be in New York for some time undergoing hospital treatment.

This would account for my letter being unanswered. His clerk said that the letter I wrote would undoubtedly be forwarded and an answer would be forthcoming in due course. I have received many interesting things since you were here and I enclose an impression of one that even Mr. Gillingham did not know - the Nap. III "Courage and Discipline." Amongst my next shipment are Louis 18th Valeur and Discipline, Battle L'Oise, Nap. III at sea, French Volunteers 1870/1. I am always glad to get a French that Mr. G. does not know - he is so keen on that country.

I enclose my check for \$6.75 in payment for the American War Medal brochure and a membership medal as Mr. Noe quoted. I would also like a certificate of membership when convenient. I am so glad you liked my small collection and I am gratified that when you next see it it will be even better in choice items. I will let you know how I come out with Sleeper and enclose the papers you sent - for which - much thanks.

Faithfully always,

D. H. Worling

Do you want to send a Copy of the American War Medal brochure to Worling the author of "Ribbons & Medals" complimentary? (See left)

February 28th, 1921.

Mr. Carleton S. Gifford,
340 Commonwealth Avenue,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Gifford:-

Your letter with cheque for \$6.78 at hand. The certificate of membership I will have looked after, and the membership medal is being engraved.

We have sent a complimentary copy of Mr. Belden's brochure to Commander Dorling.

The French medal for courage and discipline, which you have sent a rubbing of, is new to me. I will keep my eyes open for anything that I may hear about this.

Your death head medal is absolutely new to me. I have no idea what it is or what it represents. It is certainly a curiosity.

We have not the large souvenir penny of the copper country on it.

Very truly yours,

Curator.

340 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE

March 3 1921

Dear Mr. Wood:

I received the A.F.S. medal today with citations. This particular medal had been awarded to one Osborn who was killed in France.

Mr. Sleeper had requested the Boston office to comply with my request. I have you to thank for this valued acquisition and I am deeply grateful for your help in the matter. As to the Deathshead medal. I find without doubt that it is German and the motto "Und doch" goes with the symbol. Its literal translation is difficult and meaningless -"in spite of"- so without further doubt it is idiomatic. Just what the exact application is I do not know. Probably some work on the various German regiments would throw light on it. I enclose a few rubbings of recent acquisitions- some French which are new to me. Coming in a few days are Brilliant Star of Zanzibar, Eagle of Este (Modena), Gold Military Order of Savoy, Knight Commanders Cross of the British Victorian Order and two large gold badges of the Legion of Honor (Napoleon I and 1870).

Thanks for sending Dorling a copy of the U.S. War Medals. Faithfully yours,

C. T. Jefford

Mr. Buck Please send

340 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE

Dear Mr. Wood:

I enclose check for \$3. Please send me another copy of Belden's U.S. Medals and a copy of his Confederate Medals. Are not the latter rare ? I have never seen any..

Yours faithfully,

(S. Gifford)

March 8 1921

If not interested in enclosed
Please return _____

S

Mar 10/21

March 17th, 1921

C. S. Gifford, Esq.
340 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, Mass.

My dear Mr. Gifford:

I note that Colonel Syllie's book on Decorations is out, and he really takes up the subject in a very clear and lucid manner. The title is "Orders, Decorations and Ainsignia" by Colonel Robert E. Syllie, J.R.A. Putnam Sons.

Through an oversight, I neglected to return a letter which you sent me the other day. I am, therefore, enclosing it. The prices for the three article he names are much too high.

Very truly yours,

Curator

M/E
mc.

April 1st, 1921

C. S. Gifford, Esq.
349 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, Mass.

My dear Mr. Gifford:

Mr. Willingham sent me the other day some notes on the Order of Melusine that you have been able to dig up. I think he suggested that you might write this up for our series of Monographs. I would like to go a step further and say that we would be very glad to have you consider writing anything you think worthy for this small form.

Very truly yours,

H. E.

Curator

Kandahar 1842, Deccan, Java, Burmah etc. also Grand Cross of the Legion
of Honor for Nap. I and Republic both in gold from Sir Richard Wallace's
collection.

Faithfully,

C. S. Gifford

C. S. GIFFORD
36 TEMPLE PLACE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
(P. O. ADDRESS-BOX 5274, BOSTON 4)

Dear Mr. Wood:

April 3 1921

I am very appreciative of your invitation to write a monograph for the Society on MELUSINE but at present I do not feel that I possess enough information to do justice to the subject. I am, however, trying to get in touch with Prince de Lusignan and if I do and he comes across with the necessary data I will attempt the story at a later date. Mr. Gillingham is very kind to suggest it but I hardly feel that what I have unearthed is adequate. Some high prices ruled at the recent Glendining sale I hear. The General Officer's large gold medal for Peninsular-VIMIERA with clasp for MAIDA and the special gold medal for MAIDA both to Gen. Acland brought £1300. The 5 bar Army of India-authenticated- brought £342.^{+342.}

I am going over to see Gillingham around the 18th of this month and on my way back will drop in to see you. I am in receipt of some wonders.

Gold Maida, gold Barrosa, Khelat i Ghilzie,

C. S. GIFFORD
36 TEMPLE PLACE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
(P. O. ADDRESS-BOX 5274, BOSTON 4)

Dear Mr. Wood:

I had such an enjoyable call at the Society a week ago and while I knew I used a lot of your valuable time - it was nuts for me.

I enclose \$2. will you have sent me another copy of Belden's U.S. Medals. Thanks and best wishes.

Faithfully,

C. S. G.
Gifford

4/25/21

My bottles were safe and are still safer.

The enclosed sketch is of a shield picked up on a N.H. road some 5^{or more} years ago. The key is in the letters, I suppose. The shield was rounded, not flat and I think might have dropped from an auto of the then Imperial Russian Embassy. I had this sketch when in N.Y. but forgot to show it.

C. S. GIFFORD
36 TEMPLE PLACE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
(P. O. ADDRESS-BOX 5274, BOSTON 4)

Dear Mr. Wood.—

If you would get
something about the Tzengan orders -
Melusine & Catherine of Mt. Sinai - See
Mrost page 91 - lower right column
and first column on p. 92. Very thorough
and does he get it from Cayet's book
or from which of his references on
page VI? All those books would be
good to have - wouldn't they?

Faithfully —

June 4.

688

Ground - light blue enamel
Steamers or ribbon - red "

Circle - white "

H. & C. Crowns + Silver eagles

Letters & star - Silver



October 26th, 1921

Carleton S. Gifford, Esq.
340 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, Mass.

My dear Mr. Gifford:

As you may remember, some time ago you selected with Mr. Tyrell a number of German decorations. The transaction fell through later and they were all packed up to be sent back to Germany. But one of our very good members bought the entire lot and we now have the whole collection here. We have lined up all of these and put the ribbons on them.

I am, herewith, sending you a list of these, and if you send on approval all or any of them you desire.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW/E

C. S. GIFFORD
36 TEMPLE PLACE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
(P. O. ADDRESS-BOX 5274, BOSTON 4)

OCTOBER 1921

Dear Mr. Wood:

I have your letter of the 26th with enclosure of the list of German decorations. I have been fortunate enough to acquire since I had that talk with Wyman a year ago some very fine pre-war German things -many in gold and in the original cases- so that at present until I make a more extensive inventory I do not think I will purchase just now. I hope to go over to N.Y. next month and if there is anything left of this lot then, I will fill gaps.

By the way has the A.N.S. tried to get seats or has anybody suggested a representation at the ceremonies at Washington on Armistice Day for the Unknown Warrior ? I feel the Society should be represented and have adequate accomodations.

The major portion of the ceremony is MEDALLIC (as I see it) or else ~~the~~ Foch , Beatty and Diaz would have but a small part did they not bestow the MEDALS of their respective countries. Can't we get up a party and with INFLOOENCE get seats ?

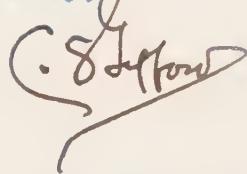
I have already taken the matter up with my

C. S. GIFFORD
36 TEMPLE PLACE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
(P. O. ADDRESS-BOX 5274, BOSTON 4)

Congressman but as I took up at the same time the
inglorious part that America played in awarding the
Victory Medals to non-combatants as well as to the
fighters (this in direct violation of the agreement
at the Medal Conference in Paris, 1919) Tinkham is
so absorbed therein that my other suggestion has
been submerged.

Don't you think it feasible ?

Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive ink, appearing to read "C. S. Gifford".

I was so sorry to miss the meet of the A.N.A. but
I was down and out physically and am still shaky.

C. S. GIFFORD
36 TEMPLE PLACE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
(P. O. ADDRESS-BOX 5274, BOSTON 4)

NOV-4 1921

Dear Mr. Wood

I have your letter. I tried out our Congressman on the question of the A.M.S. representation at the services on Armistice Day.

A very snippy reply came from the Adjutant General's office, I think the more so because I included in my letter some reference to the Victory Medal awards and Cong. Tinkham turned my letter, as was, to the War Office. The reply was entirely negative but, as you say, if we had started early I think we could have been represented. I am at present stirring up all the row I can to get at the bottom of this country's repudiation of it's given word at the Medal Conference in Paris, 1919 when we agreed to give the Victorys only to those who had entered theatres of war-I have a copy of the report.

Did we do it? And were bars authorized? No-in answer to both questions. Before I get thru I expect a veritable hornet's nest about my ears.

Faithfully,

(C. S. Gifford)

November 8th, 1921

C. S. Gifford, Esq.
Box 5274, Boston, 4
Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Gifford:

I am sorry, that we cannot sell you any of those German Decorations just now, but as we have a good supply on hand I think we shall have a good many by the time you get here. I trust to see you soon and hope you are about over your let-down which you had this summer.

The proposition of being present at the Ceremonies of the Unknown Warrior interests us. I think, however, it is too late to do anything now, and none of us feel that we would have a ghost of a show to be represented. Unfortunately none of us could go as there is a Governors' meeting the day before, Council meeting that day, and our business meeting the day after. And all of us, from the President down, are pretty thoroughly tied up. I hope, however, that you will be able to get there.

I have been wondering what will become of the medals given to the Unknown Soldier - probably, they will be kept in the War Department or the National Museum. They cannot very well keep them in a glass case out at Arlington.

Very truly yours,

Curator

H. E.

C. S. GIFFORD
36 TEMPLE PLACE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
(P. O. ADDRESS-BOX 5274, BOSTON 4)

11/8/21

Dear Mr. Wood:

Your good letter came but owing to the fact that my undersudy contracted appendicitis-of course suddenly-my contemplated trip to N.Y. will be delayed, but I'll get there surely. I am trying to find out from the War Dept. at Washington why the U.S. went back on their word in re. the Victory Medal and if I hadn't mentioned the matter to my Congressman in the same letter that I did this I might have received better attention. As it happened, the request for seats was very snappily turned down. Still, if the Society had applied earlier I think the results would have resulted in the postponement of the numerous meetings-around their date,

Seltman of Cambridge, a F.R.N.S., has sent me a bunch of Grecian and Roman coins which I turned over to Storer. He and Comstock took over £8. worth. I send herewith the balance for your and Newell's inspection. When thru with them send to me and I will return to him. Seltman wrote me last Spring about them and his letter to me (enclosed) tells the story.

I send them registered and enclose postage for return. I only send them on because as long as they are this side the ocean those interested might as well see them. I, personally

C. S. GIFFORD
36 TEMPLE PLACE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
(P. O. ADDRESS-BOX 5274, BOSTON 4)

have no interest in them and do not even know Saltman.

Sterer says he sends stuff to the Museum now and then
and from a previous letter should judge he is hard up.

Faithfully

(C. Gifford)

Please return S's letter and
descriptive sheet.

The price of each coin is on
it's envelope.

C. S. GIFFORD
36 TEMPLE PLACE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
(P. O. ADDRESS-BOX 5274, BOSTON 4)

11/9/21

Dear Mr. Wood:

A discovery !! See the enclosed "Giffograph" of the H.E.I.Co's medal for NEPAUL. Isn't the name of WYON clear to the left of my arrow concealed as an outline of the breastworks ? The more you look at it all you can see is WYON. None of my books can name the designer. It is so clear it must have been put there by design not accident. Do tell me what you think.

Faithfully,

Sgt.

November 17th, 1921

C. S. Gifford, Esq.
G.P.O. Box 5274
Boston, 4, Mass.

Dear Mr. Gifford:

I think you did a fine job in working out upon's name in the Royal medal. It certainly looks to me like his name but the workmanship does not. I cannot imagine with the wildest stretch of imagination that you could have had any hand in designing that medal.

I have wondered myself why our Government did not give us our Victory medal. However, I thought anyone in the service was entitled to one. The English certainly gave given their Victory medal to men who never left England, because those who did leave England got the Overseas medal in addition.

Trusting to see you soon, I am

Very truly yours,

Curator

F.A./J

S. C. Gifford
Dear Mr. Wood:

You did not mention the number. If you have any questions, I am just that persistent that I am going to find the solution before I am thru.

C. S. GIFFORD
36 TEMPLE PLACE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
(P. O. ADDRESS-BOX 5274, BOSTON 4)

NOV 1 1921

Dear Mr. Wood:

I have your letter. As you say and as I wrote Allan, Wyon's signature on the MEDAIL is so alien to his usual classic care that it hardly seems his. However, there must be a reason for it's ~~absence~~ presence. There and I have put it up to Allan. He should fathom it. Wyon may have seen the peculiar opportunity and departed from his usual stint. I think it is most curious, in any event, and an impatient to hear what an authority abroad has to say. There is no doubt in my mind that the name appears on the medal by design - why, is beyond me. As to the Victory. The conditions for this medal as laid down by the Medal Conference in Paris, 1919 distinctly state in Par. 2 that the medal is to be given "only to those officers and men who entered a theatre of war on the strength of any military unit." Similar conditions were laid down for the Navies. Commander Dorling has written me that England has adhered to the conditions absolutely as have the other signatories. The British War Medal was given to all who left the shores of England whether or not they entered a theatre of war. There's the distinction which you question. I am just that persistent that I am going to find the solution before I am thru.

November 22nd, 1921.

Mr. C. S. Gifford,
P.O. Address Box 5274,
Boston 4, Massachusetts.

Dear Mr. Gifford:-

I am glad that you have written to Portugal concerning their Republ. medal as it is beyond me.

I have just received from Portugal a Victory Medal which is as good as any issued, their campaign badge in silver and their Cross of War.

Please do not mind troubling me about the receipt of Sultan's coins. I put them in the vault, and that is the reason I overlooked them. I have shown them to one or two collectors, and I think I might sell a few pieces if you will allow me to retain them a little while longer.

Is there any chance of your getting on here in the next few days. If so, I will try to save out some of those war decorations.

Very truly yours,

Curator.

C. S. GIFFORD
36 TEMPLE PLACE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
(P. O. ADDRESS-BOX 5274, BOSTON 4)

NOV 24 1921

Dear Mr. Wood:

I have your letter with rubbings of the Portuguese medals enclosed. You may not have noticed the fact but Portugal has not adhered to design laid down at the Medal Conference at Paris and of which she was a signatory. Soiled down, the final agreement was that for ALL COUNTRIES the victory medal shall have on the obverse the winged figure of Victory, full face and in the middle of the medal; the reverse to have "The Great War for Civilization" and either the names of the Allied Powers or their Coats-of-Arms. England, America and Belgium (the only Victories I have seen) have adhered to this. Portugal has not as regards the reverse.

You may think I am hipped on the Victory medal agreement violations as I am ripping things up at Washington in re. our distribution thereof.

My family and friends chide me as I had no faith in the Hague Tribunal and not overmuch in the present Disarmament Conference. What shakes my faith is just what has happened in the Victory matter. Trivial, perhaps but if great nations break faith in small

November 19th, 1921

C. S. Gifford, Esq.
Box 5274, Boston,
Mass.

Dear Mr. Gifford:

I take it from your last letter that you had not seen the last letter from me, and I am sending you a copy of it, as will show how we French have not wholly stuck to the specifications.

I am, also, enclosing rubbing of a miniature of a Roman Victory which was received from Malatini. I would like that the design of this bust should

be

Trusting to see you soon, I am

Very truly yours,

Charles

W/F
SnoS.

C. S. GIFFORD
36 TEMPLE PLACE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
(P. O. ADDRESS-BOX 5274, BOSTON 4)

NOV. 192

Dear Mr. Wood:

Thanks so much for the rubbings
of the French and Greek Victories. Do you use the
Giffograph process or that of Corbe in making
these impressions? I have not heard from Col.
Ayllie in answer to my letter about the Victory
award so yesterday wrote him again and also
touched up Ex-Secy. Baker and Admiral Sims as
to the Army and Navy respectively. Now, as a
matter of fact I'm on my way but I have no idea
where the trail will lead (perhaps to Wilson)
BUT I AM GOING TO GET THE FACTS!! If All these
celebrities pass the buck I write write my article
as is and let the public judge from my correspondence.

I suspect our violation of the agreement on
Victories was political-election approaching.

However, I'm from Mizzoura.

Faithfully,

(C. S. Gifford)

Don't bother in your busy
time to answer my letters.

C. S. GIFFORD
36 TEMPLE PLACE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
(P. O. ADDRESS-BOX 5274, BOSTON 4)

things why will they not in large things ? The importance of an agreement has no bearing , the fact that they do not carry out their agreement is what counts. If the nations cannot be trusted in small matters surely they cannot be in more important ones.

By all means keep Seltman's coins as long as you like. They are nothing to me and I am only taking any trouble with them simply as a matter of courtesy to Him.

I expect to get over to New York next month some time-just when is problematical. If you have any of the decorations left, I will look them over. If not, that's my misfortune.

I should hear from Allan in a couple of weeks about the NEPAUL medal and I must confess I am very impatient in the interim. The appearance of Wyon's name is too clear to be an accident and while the fact may be known it is very strange that none of the well-known books mention it, if only to point out the concealment. I will let you know as soon as I hear. Best wishes as always.

Faithfully,

(C. S. Gifford)

P.S.

I have just been reading Col. Wyllie's book more carefully. I am thunderstruck at the way it bristles with inaccuracies particularly as to British. I wonder if he asks any advice about things. C. S. G.

December 3rd, 1921

C. S. Gifford, Esq.
36 Temple Place
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Gifford:

I think my rubbings are a combination of yours and the ~~verse~~ method. I simply press with my thumb the paper onto the plumb, & then rub ~~it~~ ~~it~~ around with pencil on it.

Colonel Wyllie, I think, is in Texas detailed with the troops.

I am glad that you are directing into the Victory medal & suppose that you are taking up the Victory medals of all of the allied nations. I am interested to know that you intend to write them up. Can we hope to publish this in our small form?

Very truly yours,

Curator

I am sending back your Seitzman coins. I do not think it worth while to keep them any longer. I have sold out one coin, at 8/- Let me know the amount & I will send you, and I will transmit.

H. H.

located at DECORATION OF THE PURPLE HEART in New Hampshire. It is sewed to
an old Continental tunic and in good state of preservation. Is there any
other PURPLE HEART known to be in existence?

(Needless to say, I am looking for one after the above.)

Faithfully C.S.G.

C. S. GIFFORD
36 TEMPLE PLACE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
(P. O. ADDRESS-BOX 5274, BOSTON 4)

Dear Mr. Wood:

I have your letter and if you will send me the \$8. for your sale of one of Seltman's items, at the rate of 20 cents to the shilling, I will credit as such to him with the other drafts I am holding. I hope he will send me no more.

Thanks for your suggestion that I write a monograph on the Victory awards of all nations.

To show just how much headway I am making, I will quote from a letter ~~rec'd~~ from Rear Admiral William S. Sims received today in response to my inquiry as to the whys and wherefores of the indiscriminate award. "I did not know, or had not remembered, that there was an allied Victory Medal*".

Now what the hell can a searcher after facts find out when our C.in C.of the Naval forces abroad during the War cannot recall that such a medal as the Victory exists? I am writing him in some detail to see if he will not interest himself in my behalf. He did such good battling with Daniels on the Navy awards, he may do likewise when his memory is refreshed about the victorys. It will interest you when I say I have

C. S. GIFFORD
36 TEMPLE PLACE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
(P. O. ADDRESS-BOX 5274, BOSTON 4)

Dear Mr. Wood. - I am scribbling this off in a hurry for the purpose you will see later.

I wrote Pres. Harding suggesting the restoration of the decoration of the Purple Heart and sent my conception of it in a sketch. I received an appreciative and very encouraging reply from the White House yesterday. This matter has been referred to Secy of War. I want to take this matter up with him briefly but on doing so want to present some credentials as to who I am that presumes to make such a suggestion. I have been advised to tack such letters to mine.

Write you or Noe concoct something of the sort - just what, I leave to you - that I may include with my letter. Stover is going to give me some thing & I will get some thing also from the A. N. A.

C. S. GIFFORD
36 TEMPLE PLACE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
(P. O. ADDRESS-BOX 5274, BOSTON 4)

I will write you about this in more detail later as to what was in my letter & the reply. I received also a very long letter from Col. Wyllie who is in Honolulu for 3 yrs. He tries to rip me to pieces but I do not quite agree with him in all things. More later —

Hastley

b. S.G.

12/9/21

It appears from my ^{the} reply to mine, that the medals of the U.S.A are to be amended by the War. Dept.

December 10th, 1921

C. S. Gifford, Esq.
Box 5274
Boston, 4, Mass.

Dear Mr. Gifford:

I think by this time you have received the package from Feltman, and I am having Mr. Bentz send you direct his cheque for \$1.60.

Mr. Gillingsaw has been up here for the last two days and filled us full of his enthusiasm. I wish you lived nearer, and we would surely be right on our mettle with decorations.

Allow me to congratulate^{you} for finding a Purple Heart. I think that this is the first one which has come to light. I trust you get it!

Mr. Lee is replying to your letter received this morning concerning a credential. This we are very glad to give and I trust that you will accomplish wonders with it.

I am on duty now and I have only a few minutes to go and then to get off various correspondence.

Very truly yours,

H. C. K.

C. S. GIFFORD
36 TEMPLE PLACE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
(P. O. ADDRESS-BOX 5274, BOSTON 4)

DEC 28 1921

Dear Mr. Wood:

Your letter came this morning and I am replying instanter because I feel that no time should be lost if we are to take advantage of the only chance we have ever had to get in to the running. I think it would be well to find out from Col. Falls ,Mr. Fraser or some person familiar with the story at Washington as to how far the plan has progressed within the War Dept. It may be too late to butt in ,and maybe not, but rather than wait for the annual meeting of the A.N.S. lets move NOW!! If nothing has transpired in Washington and will not for some time, the matter can rest till the meeting but we ought to know just what has been done,if anything, and be guided thereby. I acknowledged Wormser's letter to Sec. Weeks in my behalf and urged action not only of the A.N.A. but of all the allied organizations throughout the country. I sent my letter off to Secretary Weeks day before yesterday. Primarily I urged the restoration of the Purple Heart but wound up the letter with a strong appeal for numismatic representation on the board of medal revision.

C. S. GIFFORD
36 TEMPLE PLACE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
(P. O. ADDRESS-BOX 5274, BOSTON 4)

What I said was in line with what I wrote to Mr. Moore,
the copy of my letter is out of hand just now. I did not
realize R.E.C. was the chairman of the committee but as you
have sent on my letters they will suffice. The main thing
now is to see how far the Departmental study has pro-
gressed and get in before too late. I dont think any one
thing so vital to musicians has come up in recent years
and I hope concerted action will accomplish something.

I cannot see where my suggestion would in anyway
interfere with the prerogatives of the boards of officers,
in fact would be a help and no hindrance !!

I should hear formally from the Department within a few
days and I will immediately let you know. I enclose a
photographic Copy of my Purple Heart suggestion to the
President and to Weeks. I have colored it to correspond with
the original but it was done hastily at night so the
colors may not be as good as they were originally and as
correct as they would have been if done by day. I also
enclose a few new style "Giffographs" simulating a
photograph. Will write further when I hear anything.

Happy new Year, Yours faithfully,

(C. S. Gifford.)

December 17th, 1861

C. S. Gifford, Esq.
G.P.O. Box 5274
Boston, 4, Mass.

Dear Mr. Gifford:

I have been studying over your last two letters to me, and consider a representation of someone thoroughly familiar with the knowledge and history of Decorations on a proper Government Board. I talked the matter over with Mr. Belcher and he very much interested in the subject, and with thought that as our annual meeting will take place in about two weeks, and as the Committee on Decorations and Badges report at that meeting, your suggestions might be brought forward in that Report.

I have taken the liberty of sending your correspondence to Mr. Billings who is Chairman of this Committee.

Yours, &c., the Committee of the Union, I am

Very truly yours,

Wm. S.

Gifford's Rubbings:

Dec. 1911



GIFOGRAPH
BY C. S. GIFFORD
F. A. N. S., F. R. N. S.



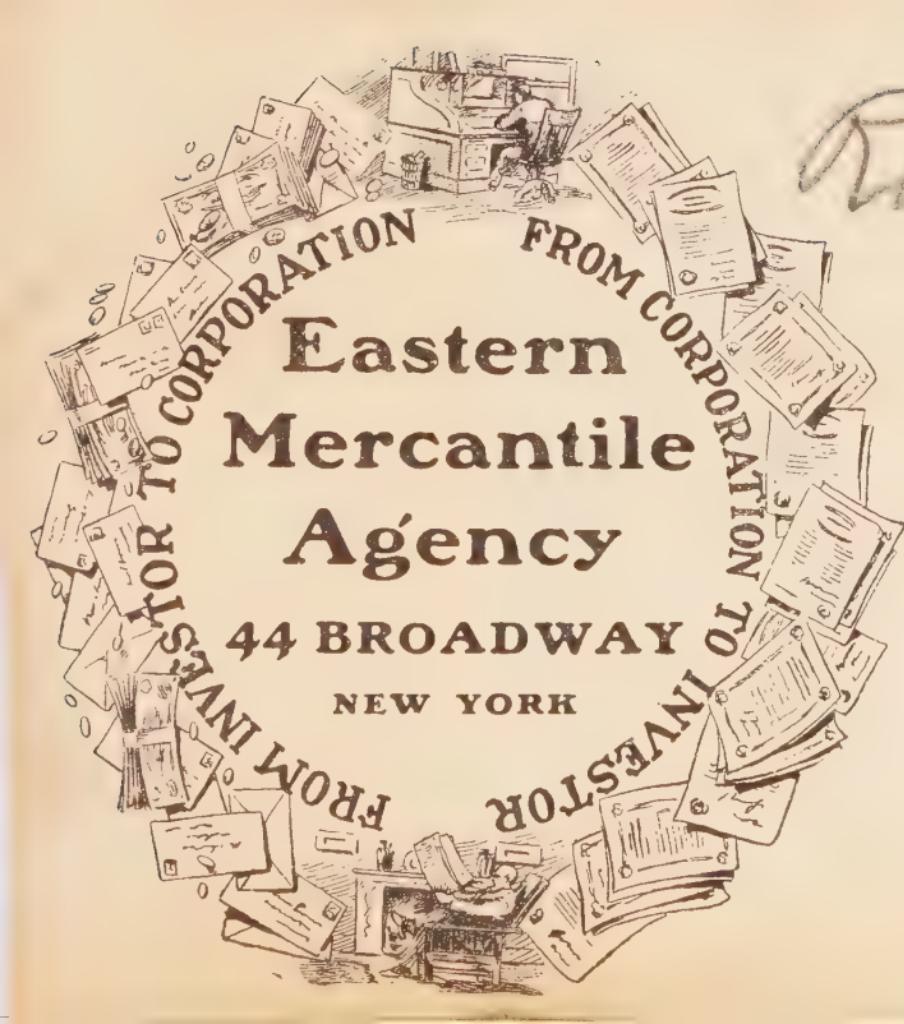
HON. E. J. CO
MEDAL
FOR RODRIGUES
BOURBON. ISLE OF FRANCE

GIFOGRAPH
BY C. S. GIFFORD
F. A. N. S., F. R. N. S.

1809-10



GIFOGRAPH
BY C. S. GIFFORD
F. A. N. S., F. R. N. S.



**Eastern
Mercantile
Agency**

44 BROADWAY

NEW YORK

*Rubbins from
Gifford*

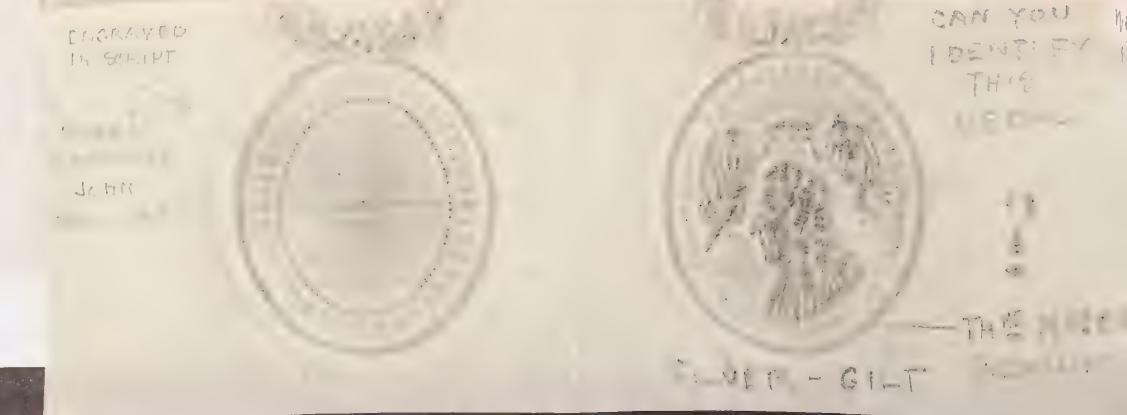
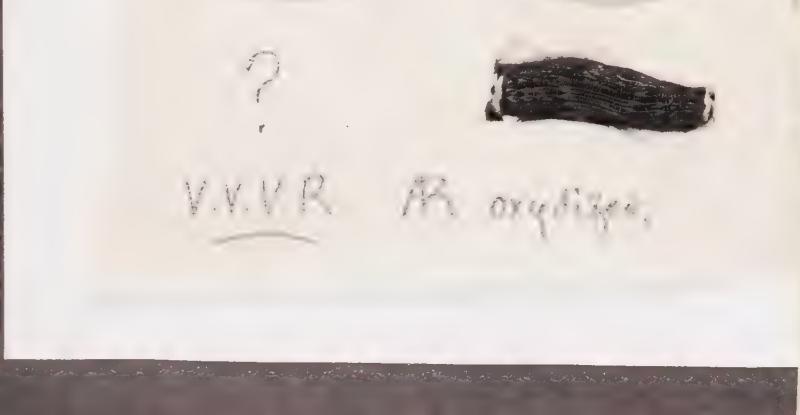
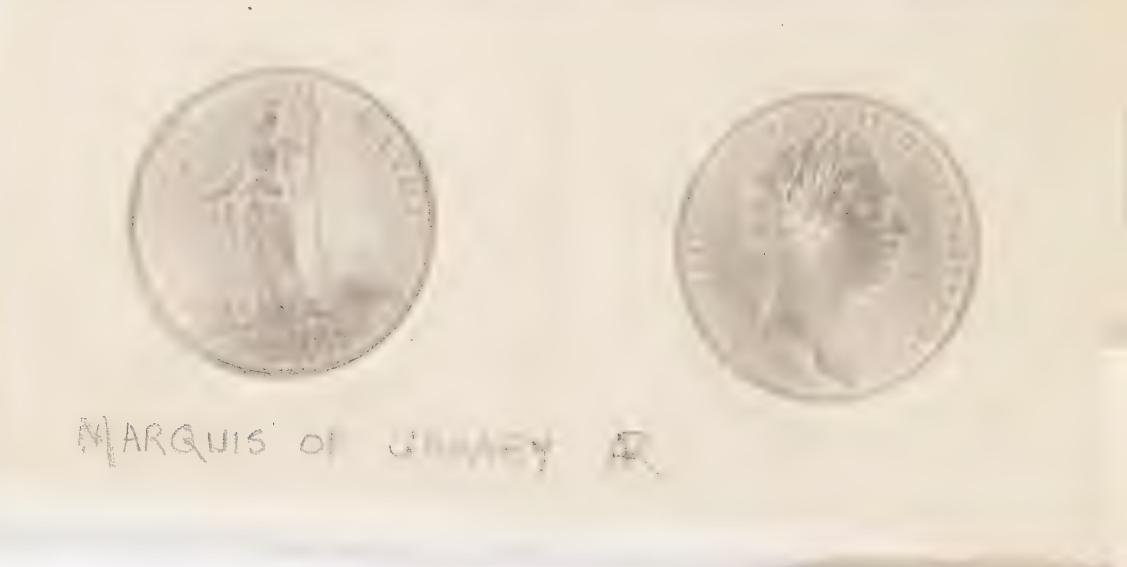
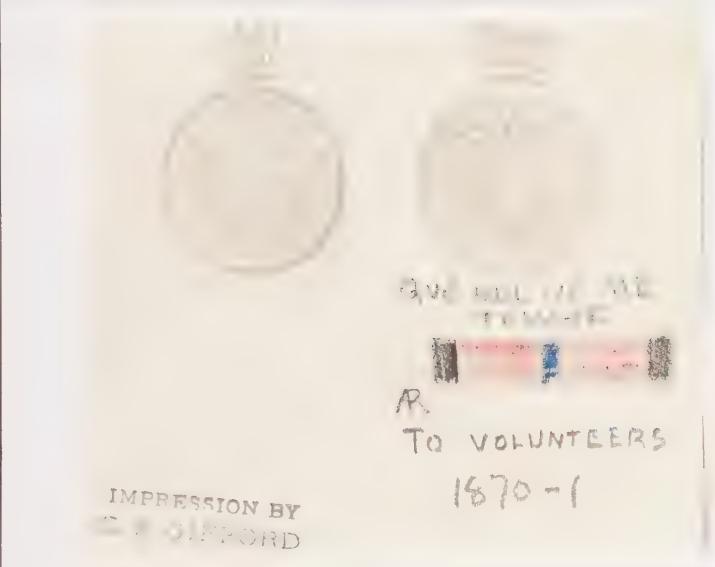
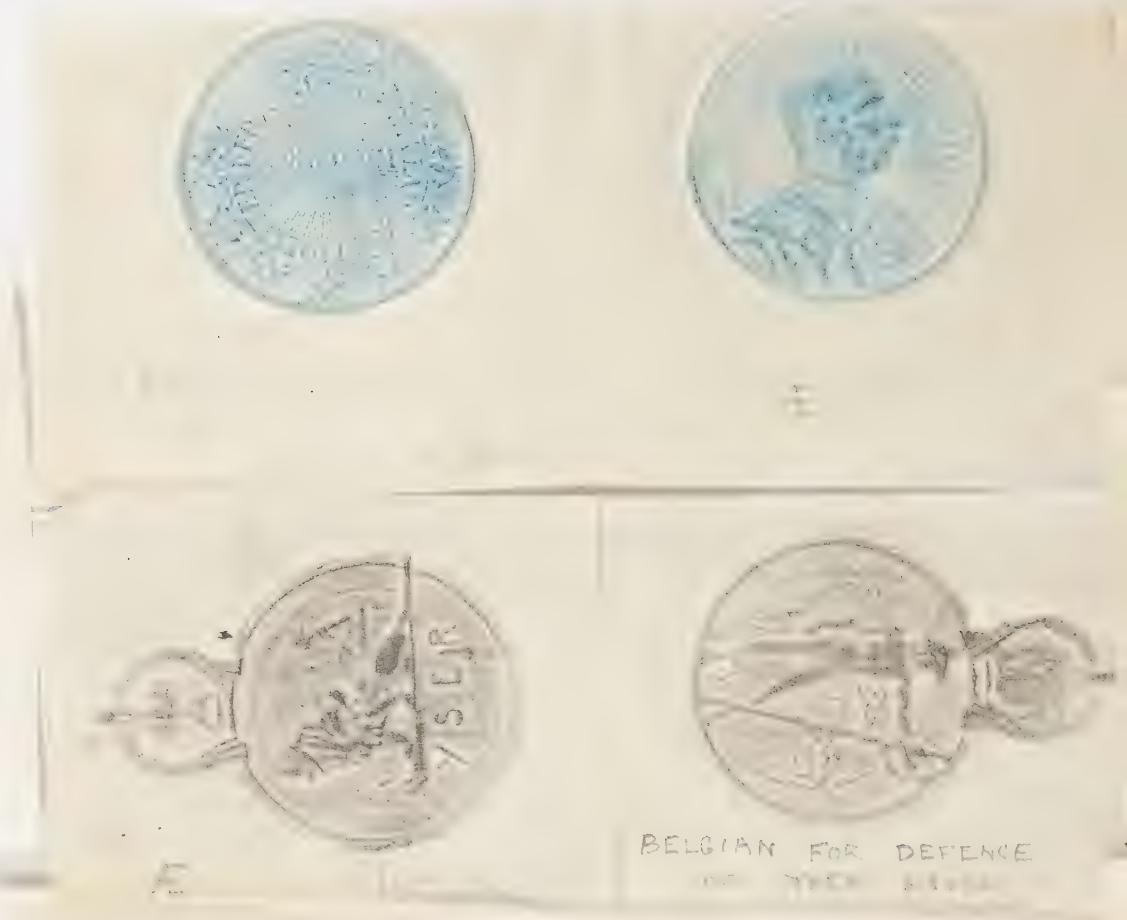
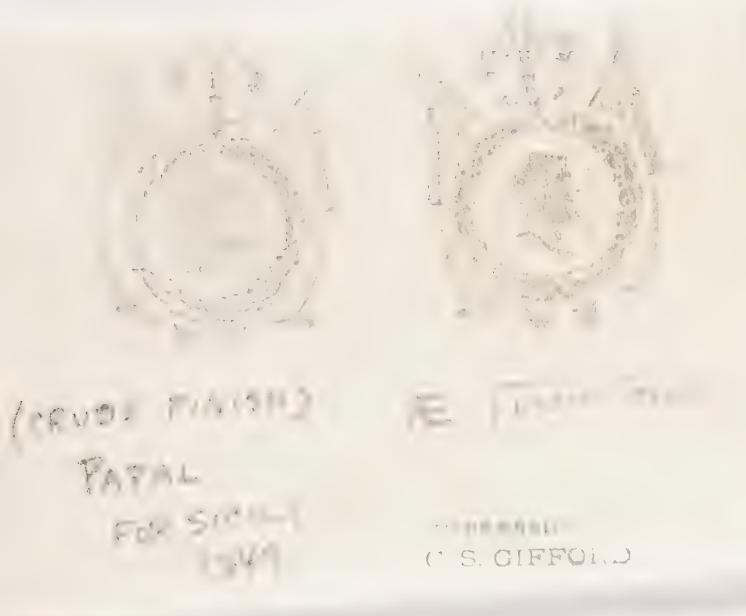
Stamps.

Panama.



THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY
BROADWAY, BETWEEN 155TH AND 156TH STREETS
NEW YORK

Drawings from
C. W. Cope





LIVERPOOL SHIPWRECK AND
HUM. SOCY TO CAPTAIN OF
S.S. WINNIPEG FOR SAVING LIFE AT SEA "SURREY"



1853 2. 12



1853

1853

1853



APRIL 1853



I NEVER
SAW ONE
WITH THIS
MEDAL BEFORE

PINK
WHITE EDGES.

IMPRESSION BY
G. S. GIFFORD

T. NAYLOR, C. M. E.



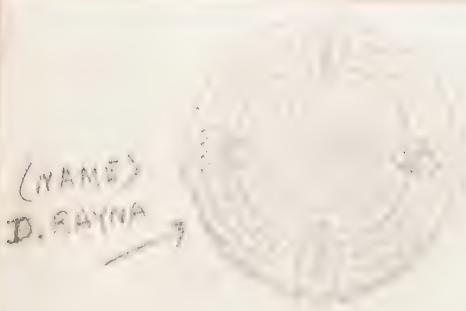
BIRMINGHAM VOLUNTEERS 1892



BY D. RAYNA - 1919



BORDEAUX JULY 1919



A. GILT



IMPRESSION BY
D. R. GILFORD

FOR THE BATTLE
OF L'OISE

C. S. GIFFORD
36 TEMPLE PLACE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
(P. O. ADDRESS-BOX 5274, BOSTON 4)

JAN -4 1922

Dear Mr. Wood:

Your letter came today and I thank you for it. I do not see how the A.A.S. can jump in blindfolded but ,as you know all large bodies move slowly, numismatic or otherwise (referring to the bodies). What I have written was to start something and urge haste altho such a suggestion has to follow certain lines in order to be properly put in snare and duly voted upon. I feared that ,perhaps, action on the medal awards had already started and so some individual action might be necessary until approval could be set in motion. I wrote Roniger and he was greatly interested and after getting Mason's consent as Chairman of the Board of Governors intended writing the President direct. I know nothing of Washington etiquette and told Roniger so, and can see no harm in passing the suggestion on thru the White House to the War Dept. It can do no harm and may strike Farding's fancy, which may help.

I considered the Certificate of Merit in connection with the Purple Heart but it seemed that the P.H. would be a far greater distinction because of its origin and the unusual privileges carried with it. My suggestion to

C. S. GIFFORD
36 TEMPLE PLACE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
(P. O. ADDRESS-BOX 5274, BOSTON 4)

Both the President and the Secretary was that it be the counterpart of the Medal of Honor in times of peace.

The present rules of the V.F. to be changed to read (after substituting the name of the P.F.) instead of "in action involving actual conflict with an enemy", let it read "in the face of danger", the balance of the rules to be identical; risk of life", "above and beyond the call of duty." As to representation again, I fully realize the truth of Col. Waller's words (I shall not quote them) and am alive to the great antiastry army officers have for civilian help or interference however such soon could help. Let the officers lay down the rules, that is glory enough for them! Let those curiostatists who are familiar with the artistic awards of nearly all countries, with which said officers are NOT!!, suggest only the details of design, catalog, ribbon, etc., etc. Our present awards are indicative of the Army's idea of artistry. That is my contention purely. As to some members who could represent our numismatic organizations, let us see first if we can put the idea over. All I am looking or hoping for is the success of our contention; we can make up some body adequate to advise whom the time comes. I

C. S. GIFFORD
36 TEMPLE PLACE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
(P. O. ADDRESS-BOX 5274, BOSTON 4)

as not qualified to do the work and could not spare the time from business. You and Cillingham are my choice.

No, I have not landed the Purple Heart or photograph~~ed~~ it altho the latter might be done. The owner will never sell the uniform on which the decoration is while he lives, I am sure, for sake of sentiment. I shall keep on his trail and land it some time, I hope. As to The British U.S. medals-Army and Navy. As to the Military C.S., I have all, the one for CAPTAIN'S MARY to Lieut. Sylvester PAYNE, 42nd Foot. You will find his history in Dr. Payne's book on Page 643. This medal formerly was in Dr. P's collection and is one of the rarest in existence as few medals to officers survive. Ft. Detroit and Chateaugay I have had offered but for this series I want all officers and still get them by waiting. As to the U.C.S. I have FNDY'TON ab. PRESIDENT to JOHN FARRETT; SHANNON ab. CHIEFMAST to JOHN FAR, 2nd Lt. R.V. (rare to an officer); TOAN SERVICE Apr.-May 1813 to C. Fisher, Lieut. R.N. (Paid on Havre-deGrace and Frenchtown). If you have O'Donnell Naval Biography you may find these last thereon.) Allen has been on sick leave but is back now and writes he cannot verify the NAPALI. I have written the

C. S. GIFFORD
36 TEMPLE PLACE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
(P. O. ADDRESS-BOX 5274, BOSTON 4)

Calcutta Mint where the dies still are to see if they know anything. I am convinced if Wyon did not engrave the dies, he designed them and perhaps sent the design to India for engraving. As to Victory. I had a long letter from Tyllie but am not satisfied with his excuse and at setting, if possible, the conference reports of all the Allies for comparison. It will take a long time to collect the data but will make good reading when complete. I will keep you informed as to progress of the heating of my many irons.

Faithfully,

C. S. Gifford

Found letter from Allan at office saying he is puzzled over Arpanal & is writing India. He doesn't think the Arpanal is a bit like Wyon's work but even so if he had executed his own design (which I claim is his) the result might have been worthy of him. I like to think this.—(de Wyon) was commissioned by the Co. to design a medal to be engraved in India. He has come square with the Co.

as to leaving his name appear on the
freight which the Co. did not want.

He made up his mind it should appear
(and does) and was content, perhaps
copying some body's words (one may see it)

If the records of the E. & G. Co. are
in existence might not the full
Story be found in their files as to
the correspondence? If, and I suppose was
so, the Company had a London office
~~and~~ the matter was handled there it

war Dept

Jan 5

To be added

In re People here

There is now in existence plan the
organization of a joint army and navy board
which will be charged with the administration
of all questions of decoration which relate
especially to the two services and that your
instructing and instructive letter with
achievements will be referred to this
board when organized, for consideration
in regard connection with your former
letter on this subject.

Signed John W. Weeks
Sec of War



THE DECORATION OF THE PURPLE HEART



OBVERSE



RIBBON BAR



ARMY



NAVY



MARINES



AIR FORCE



REVERSE

C.S.GIFFORD DEL.

C. S. GIFFORD
36 TEMPLE PLACE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
(P. O. ADDRESS-BOX 5274, BOSTON 4)

MAR 13 1922

Dear Mr. Wood:

While Mr. Gillingham was at the Council meet last Friday, I think I reached bottom on the mystery of Melusine. He now knows the news-as you might imagine, knowing me. There has been a keen but very friendly rivalry between us regarding the orders of the Family of Lusignan. I have been quietly combining France for works on the subject and what I have received gives the history to 1896 giving plates of Melusine, Mt. Sinai and l'Epee with copies of the letters of the family awarding the Order of Melusine-especially. Melusine, without doubt, was the spookiest of spooks as her biography points out since many of the princely families of Europe were anxious to claim her as their very own ancestoress. The spookiest part of my entire research is that the frontispiece of one of the works I received was that of the flower of the family, Princess Marie, and the engraving was done where? **IN PHILADELPHIA** by John Sartain, the famous engraver and who, I am told, was a Chevalier of the Order of Melusine. Cannot you easily imagine how I rubbed this into H.E.G.? References in the text show that more explicit works have been written on the Lusignan Orders-for which I have sent. It seems to me that nothing in this branch of numismatics so unusual and so interesting has occurred in some time. May I write it up for publication next fall? I hope to be allowed to dwell somewhat on the legendary feature of the tale as it seems to have a bearing on the orders of that illustrious family.

C. S. GIFFORD
36 TEMPLE PLACE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
(P. O. ADDRESS-BOX 5274, BOSTON 4)

You have asked it for your monograph series and I hope to have specimens of all the orders of the family orders for reproduction by that time. I think the story will make interesting reading even for lay members if your august editor thinks the tale sufficiently alluring.

In addition to the orders of the family, it seems that there was published in 1892 a brochure entitled:

"*Histoire numismatique de la Maison de Lusignan.*"

From the text it would appear that this work gives a complete account of the coinage of the Lusignans.

Considering the fact that this family ruled Jerusalem, Armenia and Cyprus their coinage must be a matter of interest to numismatists and, no doubt, you know something of it. I would be glad to send to my good friend in France and get this brochure if it would be of any interest to you. Judging from the reading matter the numismatic details apply only to coinage-not to the orders. I will try and get it and if it fits in to the Melusine material it might be attached by you.

The Lusignan family apparently ceased to function at the death of Princess Marie in 1890. Her relatives were a poor lot. She was a sweet character and was much beloved for her work among the poor.

Russia and Turkey, alas, were the countries of the Lusignan adoption in later days. The illustrious family, owing to its decadence, has probably followed the fortunes of these unfortunate lands. I hope to have an up to date account of their tribulations.

Faithfully yours,

(C. S. Gifford.)

March 15th, 1922

C. S. Gifford, Esq.
Box 5274, Boston, 4
Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Gifford:

Congratulations! It looks as if you would soon be the greatest living authority on the Order of Melusine. More strength to your good right arm and your determination! You certainly put one over on our Philadelphia friend. I think here there is a good chance of giving a little rubbing down - when there is an opportunity.

I think this would make most interesting material for a publication, and when you get it in shape we would certainly be glad to see it. Of course you understand that it is impossible to say offhand that any monograph will be accepted for publication without first seeing whether it is suitable for our small form, but it seems to me that there could be no earthly reason why the one upon which you are working should not be just the thing.

We would be very glad to have the brochure on the coins of the House of Lusignan.

We are expecting to send out at the end of next week Mr. Gillingham's monograph on French Decorations which I think will be of general interest.

Very truly yours,

Curator

C. S. GIFFORD
36 TEMPLE PLACE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
(P. O. ADDRESS-BOX 5274, BOSTON 4)

MAR 16 1922

Dear Mr. Wood

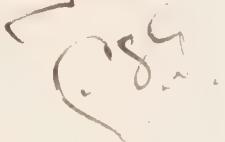
Your good letter at hand. Of course I understand that any manuscript would be conditional but think the subject would be ~~now~~ of general interest.

I have GREAT NEWS !!!!!!!! The long sought original PURPLE HEART will be in my possession this next Saturday and you will have a photo of it very shortly after.

John Sartain and Clara Barton-of Red Cross fame-were awarded the Order of Melusine.

I shall now proceed to rough H.E.G. on the Purple Heart.

Faithfully yours

A handwritten signature in brown ink, appearing to read "C. S. Gifford". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "G" at the beginning.

C. S. GIFFORD
36 TEMPLE PLACE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
(P. O. ADDRESS-BOX 5274, BOSTON 4)

MAR 20 1922

Dear Mr. Wood:

I enclose a photograph of interest.
The original lies before me as I write.

It would appear to be a worthy companion to
the Paulding Medal- as it is the PURPLE HEART.

Faithfully yours,



Gillingham tells me that, as yet, his collection
does not include the above. Without doubt he will
soon have one- from France ?

March 29th, 1912

C. S. Gifford, Esq.
Box 5274
Boston, 4, Mass.

Dear Mr. Gifford:

I am very glad to get the photograph of the
medal you sent me. It is a very fine example. It
is made from a piece of brocade similar to what is
used on waistcoats, and then bound round with gold
tinsel. I trust you are the fortunate owner of this.

I have just received from France the Commemorative
Medal of the World War by Morlin. This is the
one with the red and white striped ribbon, and is far
superior to their Victory medal.

Very truly yours,

W.H.C.

C. S. GIFFORD
36 TEMPLE PLACE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
(P. O. ADDRESS-BOX 5274, BOSTON 4)

APR 19 1922

Dear Mr. Wood:

Sometime in July last Major Collins of Chicago sent you a decoration, an impression of which I enclose, for your opinion as to its identity. By devious ways this same specimen has come to me with a copy of your letter in answer to Collins. The monogram **I** (A.V.) is no doubt that of Anton Ulrich but upon looking up all the Antons Ulrich, there appears to be many of that name. Bearing in mind the date on the reverse I paid particular attention in my research to the combination of the monogram **and** the date above mentioned (on my rubbing). My investigations appear to focus on Anton Ulrich, Herzog von Braunschweig-Luneburg-Wolfenbuttel who married **14 Juli 1739** Prinzessen Anna von Mecklenburg-Schwerin. What do you make of this, Watson?

"Of Sweet Memory" would seem to make the reason for the birth of a child or an anniversary of marriage. History does not record the former on any such date and if the latter why 21 years?

I realize the Germans were very fond of striking medals for all events and as you have had a whack at this, I beg to send you the above not for you to fool with but as a reminder that I haven't bothered you recently and also that I think of you and your previous kindnesses often and include herewith my very kindest wishes.

Faithfully yours,



100-5000
100-5000
F. A. N. S., F. R. N. S.

100-5000
100-5000
F. A. N. S., F. R. N.

April 21st, 1922

C. S. Gifford, Esq.
Box 5274, Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Gifford:

It seems good to hear from you again, and I see the old A Y medal has been making some rounds. I am glad you confirm the opinion that it was coined by Anton Ulrich. I think you have hit on a good solution because Eleonora Dulcis certainly must refer back to something - possibly she may died in 1760, and this medal was gotten out a little after that date.

You certainly are digging up a lot of stuff on those French Family Orders.

With kind regards,

Very truly yours,

Curator

U.S.A.

C. S. GIFFORD
36 TEMPLE PLACE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
(P. O. ADDRESS-BOX 5274, BOSTON 4)

APR 22 1922

Dear MR.Wood:

Your kind letter came this morning in the same mail with one from Prof. Seltman of the R.I.S. (my persistent pestiferous fellow Fellow). He sends me the enclosed list of coins that he is sending me to sell for him, if I can.

As bait he is also sending me an original Iron Cross of 1713 and the large gold medal for the battle of Blenheim referred to in Med. Ill. p. 256 only known in silver. He deduces this to have been awarded to an officer of high rank. As I figure his coins to be worth about £4. I will not send them along with this. I thought if Peatty or anyone was interested I would send whatever they wished to see. I wish the Prof. would not send such valuable stuff. I do not want the responsibility of it and do not want to bother with it-Blenheim or no Blenheim. I want to do the courteous thing but there is a limit-even in America. Do not go to any trouble and do not hesitate to return the list post haste. I will tell S. that we are all dead broke over here.

I also received in the same mail a letter from the Calcutta Mint in answer to my inquiry regarding the designer of the H.E.I. Company's NEPAL medal. I also sent the photo-enlargement. I have apparently stirred up a hornet's nest there-of the numismatic variety. The authorities there agree that WYON is clearly shown and they cannot prove my contention but like the British Museum think I am right. The Mint director was "seein' things" about that time and

C. S. GIFFORD
36 TEMPLE PLACE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
(P. O. ADDRESS-BOX 5274, BOSTON 4)

fancied he also saw certain oriental words and inscriptions also in my photograph. He turned it over to the Asiatic Society of Bengal for light.

They, I should say it, see things also and the wise ones are much at sea. Opinions of the various members agree that there are certain inscriptions on the medal but cannot agree as to significance.

The Director will later report the result of the learned Society's findings. In the vernacular of the day, I appear to have "started sumthin". I am referred to the present Wyon in London to whom I shall forthwith write and see what he can tell me.

If all these investigations fail, I hardly see where I can find another source of information to tap.

My position is now, "There's WYON on the hillside. If he did not design this medal, who did? I am from that skeptical state of Mizzoura." I think I am fast passing from the collective to the investigating stage. New acquisitions give me none of the thrill that my research work does. My library is assuming vast proportions-some 85 books and more due to arrive.

I am enthralled and entranced with my diggings into the Lusignan family and, as Gillingham calls her, "dear grandma Melusine". As I wrote Mr. Noe I am very much afraid that my threatened monograph will assume too great a proportion of historical interest to be acceptable as to matter and space for the A.N.S. publication. There is the subject of the Lusignan coinage which should be included. I shall write up the family history and the orders in extenso. This will require much space. I know perfectly well that

C. S. GIFFORD
36 TEMPLE PLACE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
(P. O. ADDRESS-BOX 5274, BOSTON 4)

it will be too voluminous for your publication.

My idea is to condense the material (always with the idea that it is at all acceptable) for the A.I.S. monograph, reserving the right to use all material for the larger treatise of the subject.

I have some ten works on the above subject and more due to arrive. There has, as far as I can ascertain been no work on this subject published in this country and I have been fortunate to receive certain contributory data which foreign writers on the subject had no knowledge of. I judge this from their works.

The snips of ribbons I sent you were 1. The Royal Humane Society. Newly designed by my friend Dorling to get away from the plain blue. Further awards to the same man are to be sown by ovals of the same metal as the medal with "R.H.S." in centre, said oval to be attached to the ribbon.

The second snip is that of the "Military Star of the Sultan Fouad" (Egypt) instituted by the former Sultan-now King. It matches up with the Military Cross of England as to eligibility of award. The fawn color is officially known as "Chamois".

I just received the official medal of Reconnaissance of Belgium and the Service Medal of Panama for the late War.

I have rambled on-regardless.

Faithfully yours,

C. S. Gifford

May 3rd, 1922

C. S. Gifford, Esq.
P.O. Box 5274
Boston, 4, Mass.

Dear Mr. Gifford:

I beg to apologize for the answering your communication of April 22nd before, but I have been away considerably the past few days.

I very much doubt if we could use any of the Greek coins which you have sent on as Mr. Newell is in Europe and the other members who collect Greek coins are either away or hard up.

I am glad you are stirring up the Indian people concerning that Nepal medal.

Are you going to show the Purple Heart at the Convention? If not, would you be willing to have us exhibit it here during the summer? If so, I should be glad if you would give me a little "dope" which I could embody in the label.

With regard to the Service Medal of Panama about which you write, is it the one known as La Solidad with red, white and blue ribbons in a number of stripes? If it is a different medal, I shall want to go out after it.

Very truly yours,

W. H.
A. M.

C. S. GIFFORD
36 TEMPLE PLACE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
(P. O. ADDRESS-BOX 5274, BOSTON 4)

MAY 10 1922

Dear Mr. Wood:

Please do not apologize for not answering my duty note re. Sultan's stuff.

Very glad you did not take any. While I fully believe in extending every courtesy to our fellow Fellows oversea, I do not feel that I should be obliged to pay 60% duty on \$11. worth of uncanceled medals and the return registered postage on his coins and the medals. This is the second dose I have had and I shall gently caution the learned professor that I wish no further evidences of his esteem.

The Nepal affair has started sumthin. I would like to get in touch with the man or department of the British Government who can tell me of the whereabouts of the Hon. T.I.Co.

Have you any suggestions?

NO, NO, I shall not exhibit the PUNJABI HEART at the coming A.N.A. Convention. I do not wish to usurp another's glory. I decline any credit for this unusual thing. I engineered the matter but Captain Willey delivered the goods. He was here for dinner last evening and I persuaded him to let you have the Heart for the summer and you will get it shortly. Colonel Wyllie has about all the "dope". See page 7, of his work (?)

I cannot tell you truik about the Lanham Medal, whether it is Gold plated or not. The ribbon is ~~red - blue - white~~. I enclose check for extras of \$11. They are costived nine, please

Faithfully yours,

When issued, mark down to 50 cents. It will be well they are worth.

May 13th, 1912

Mr. C. S. Gifford
Box 5274
Boston, 4, Mass.

Dear Mr. Gifford:

I do not know whom to tell you to see in the British Government concerning the Lancashire John Company, or they are not to sell it, but I should think that this would be a very easy matter.

I thought you were the proud owner of the Purple Heart. Evidently, it is a joint affair; and if so can exhibit it during the summer, it will then be a triangular affair.

I expect to be away during June and July, therefore if we do not have the Purple Heart before June - or, if not then, in August, it would be all right. It seems to me that Boston should not be the only place in which to see this relic.

Your medal is known as to soldiers. It comes in three classes, and probably yours is the third class.

Very truly yours,

H.W./E

C. S. GIFFORD
36 TEMPLE PLACE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
(P. O. ADDRESS-BOX 5274, BOSTON 4)

August, 15, 1922

Dear Mr. Wood:

It is some time since I have written you on any subject, in fact I have been very remiss with all my correspondence. I received a letter the other day from one John W. Connor Jr., Woodwild, Metuchen, N.J. stating that he was a collector of the medals awarded by states, cities and towns for the services of their men in the last War. He was also making a check list of all those issued and had some 800 items of which 551 were in his collection. As this is the first instance I have heard where anyone was taking the pains to do this I thought you might be interested. Of course the 800 does not represent all issued by any means but I wrote him that you might add a few items to his list if he would call on you and incidentally you might add to your store of knowledge in that regard. You will probably hear from him and after the Convention is over, you may want to see him.

Please tell Mr. Noe that my Insigman task has been much delayed as I have found a complicated lot of data in the vast numbers of books I have received from France. It has taken much time to translate and make notes and some authoritative works must be read before I dare to proceed further. I trust you are feeling better as Capt. Willey tells us that you have been ill. With best wishes, as ever

Faithfully yours

C. S. Gifford.

January 27th, 1892

C. S. Gifford, Esq.
P.O.Box 5274
Boston, 4, Mass.

Dear Mr. Gifford:

Your letter of my arrival back from my leave of absence
was since to a day. I am very glad to hear from you again
and trust that you are having an enjoyable summer.

I am recovering very well. In fact, so well I have been
working on the "Mint" collections for the last one or three
years. Right now, I am writing, and is really forming a
wonderful collection, so that my help that you can give him
will go to some real use.

As I have left to State-Mt., of course, can you tell me
or let me write Mr. concerning the Purple Heart; we should
like to know if we can have it before the date of the Convention.

I wonder if you are coming on here for the Annual Numismatic
Convention.

Very truly yours,

Curator

U.S.A.

C. S. GIFFORD
36 TEMPLE PLACE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
(P. O. ADDRESS-BOX 5274, BOSTON 4)

OCT 30 1922

Dear Mr. Wood:

I am sending you under separate cover a French pamphlet by Farcinet entitled "Mélanges de Numismatique et Histoire et Recherches en Poitou"

I have extracted some Lusignan material and a two pages of information on the Médaille de Savoye-
etc. I am away behind on my Lusignan article just because I cannot seem to land the one essential I need- a work by this same author, Furoinet- on the orders of the Lusignan family. I have all the data I want with regard to Mt. Sinai and the Sword of Cyprus but dear old Melusine has left no records behind her unless the above delinquency supplies them. I have also an order in for Preau's book on Lusignan coinage, That also has not come thru.

My Lusignan is mighty interesting but it is a thing of the past as the family has petered out and no direct descendant lives today. They allied themselves with decadent nations and shared their fate. Shirtsleeves to shirtsleeves took in this instance a thousand years. They died hard.

I wish my physical health were better that I could attempt things. Just now my enjoyment consists in getting avalanches of books from overseas.

Quite a number of medals etc. have arrived but they do not seem to interest as much as KNOWLEDGE.

That sounds like A. Lincoln. But its so.

Faithfully

November 7th, 1912

C. S. Gifford, Esq.
G.P.O. Box 5274
Boston, 4, Mass.

Dear Mr. Gifford:

I was indeed glad to hear from you, and I trust that you will soon have the missing information on the Louisiana mail. It has evidently been a most absorbing task ferreting out the hidden mysteries of semi-official Orders.

We have received many Decorations during the past year, but I am inclined to think that owing to the death of Mr. Daniels that not so many will now be coming to us unless someone else takes the interest that he did in our Collection.

Thank you very much for the copy of the Mlarpe which you kindly sent.

Very truly yours,

H.W/H

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340 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE

Very Truely Yours -

I want to thank you promptly for your courtesy in giving me the freedom of the Society's rooms on Thursday and Friday and also for giving me the opportunity of visiting the Library. I hope to come to New York again later and shall plan to take more time in inspecting the most elaborate collection. Please convey my best and appreciation also to Mr. Lyman.

Faithfully yours

Saturday -

B. S. Brown

C. S. GIFFORD
36 TEMPLE PLACE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
(P. O. ADDRESS-BOX 5274, BOSTON 4)

RECEIVED

Dear Mr. Wood:

I mailed a letter this p.m. to ~~William~~ George Davis of the A.N.S. thinking he would get it on his arrival for the meeting Sat. I find a letter at home tonight telling me he is laid up with grippe and cannot get to the meeting.

Will you kindly slip the letter in the enclosed envelope and mail? I thought that under the circumstances the early receipt would perhaps cheer him up a bit.

I wish the dear chap were stronger. It grieves me that he gets all the germs that are trotting around.

Faithfully yours,

C. S. Gifford

January 12th, 1923

C. S. Gifford, Esq.
P.O.Box 5274
Boston, 4, Mass.

Dear Mr. Gifford:

I have your letter of January 11th, and was glad to comply with your request to forward your communication to Mr. Cillingham. We, too, are very sorry to hear of ^{his} illness; and it is a source of regret that he is unable to attend our Annual Meeting which is to be held, as you know, tomorrow.

Trusting you are keeping well, I am

Very truly yours,

Curator

WW/E

CARLETON S. GIFFORD
340 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE
BOSTON 17, MASSACHUSETTS

MAR 27 1923

Dear Mr. Wood:

I enclose part of a letter from a correspondent in Ohio. I have cut this from the body of the whole letter as there are other things I wish to answer. I have looked thru Betts but find no mention of this particular medal. It may be worth nothing at all but if you have any data regarding it, I should be glad to hear. I received the ANC mono graphs safely. I am sending them to a friend in England with my compliments.

Faithfully yours,



A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Carleton S. Gifford". The signature is written in a cursive style, with "Carleton" and "S." being more formal, and "Gifford" being more fluidly written below it.

March 29th, 1923

Mr. C. S. Gifford
P.O. Box 5274
Boston, 4, Mass.

Dear Mr. Gifford:

I am sorry that I cannot help you out on the medal of Washington and Von Steuben. We have nothing like it and I do not seem to know it. Can you ask your friend to send it on or send a rubbing of it to us. Without knowing more of the piece, it is impossible to tell whether or not it is of any value.

Very truly yours,

Curator.

HW/E
Enc.

CARLETON S. GIFFORD
340 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE
BOSTON 17, MASSACHUSETTS

APR - 1 1923

Dear Mr. Wood:

I have your letter with regard to the von Steuben medal and I am writing the owner to send the specimen direct to you for purposes of identification. It may be a copy avis and, more likely, may be not.

Apparently it was awarded for some reason during or after the Revolution.

I am also offered a button(?) the size of a half dollar, convex and engraved, G.W. LOVED TO SERVE HIS COUNTRY.
I will let you know further about it.

Faithfully,

Carleton S. Gifford

April 2nd, 1923

Mr. Carleton S. Gifford
340 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, 17, Mass.

Dear Mr. Gifford:

In reply to your letter of April 1st,
the button about which you write is not rare and
is worth from about 50¢ to 75¢. It was made dur-
ing the second Presidency of George Washington.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW/E

CARLETON S. GIFFORD
340 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE
BOSTON 17, MASSACHUSETTS

Dear Mr. Wood:

I enclose the vonSteuben medal for your inspection, also the letter of description from the owner.

Betts does not appear to list it and while I do not know Mr. Moore at all, I am told he is a most trustworthy and honest chap.

I would be glad of your opinion of it. Mr. Moore offers it at \$15.

Faithfully yours,

.S.G.

April 5, 1923

April 10th, 1923

Mr. C. S. Gifford
P.O. Box 5274
Boston, 4, Mass.

Dear Mr. Gifford:

Please excuse the delay in replying to your letter but I was away for a few days.

I am, herewith, returning the medal, and wish to thank you very much for the trouble you took in letting me have a look at it. Now that I have seen it, I can say that it was made in 1876, or a few years later. Although I have not seen this combination before, I knew that type of the Washington side. The piece is worth in all probability from 25¢ to 50¢.

Our Sculpture Exhibition will open up in a few days but in the meantime it is chaos here.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW/E

THE PROVIDENT INSTITUTION FOR SAVINGS
IN THE TOWN OF BOSTON
36 TEMPLE PLACE
BOSTON, MASS.

Monday

Dear Mr. Brewster or Mr. Wood.—

I wrote a week or more ago to Mr. Brewster (but fear letter went astray) saying that the Art Museum is to exhibit my collection and asked for a letter saying what the Society thinks of my collection. This is to be reproduced in the press notices with other material as well as in the Bulletin. Will you oblige with anything that will serve the purpose. If Mr. Brewster is away, will Mr. Wood oblige and may I ask for answer by return mail.

Sincerely—

(P. G. Gifford)

P. O. Box 5274, Boston 4.

May 22nd, 1923

Mr. C. S. Gifford,
P.O. Box 5274
Boston, 4, Mass.

My dear Mr. Gifford:

Mr. Newell did receive a letter from you, because he spoke about it to me. I thought he was going to answer it, and probably it was his intention to do so but a number of business matters came up and, also, he has removed to the country. Will the enclosed letter do, as I do not know what you originally wrote Mr. Newell?

Very truly yours,

Acting Secretary & Curator

HW/E
BMC.

May 22nd, 1923

C. S. Gifford, Esq.
P.O. Box 5274
Boston, 4, Mass.

Dear Mr. Gifford:

I am very glad to know that you are going to exhibit your collection of Decorations at the Museum of Fine Arts. If it will give visitors half the pleasure and instruction that it has given me when I have looked at it at your home, the Museum of Fine Arts is certainly to be congratulated. I have always admired your method of collecting Decorations - firstly, because you have tried to form them into a consecutive whole, and secondly, because so many of your pieces hold such human interest. I almost wish you could stand by your exhibit and supply the stories connected with the various Decorations.

There is no doubt that your Exhibition will prove of great interest, and I trust that it will instil a finer appreciation of Orders and Decorations in those who visit the Museum than they now have.

Very truly yours,

J.W./E

Curator

May 29th, 1923

Mr. C. S. Gifford
P.O. Box 5274
Boston, 4, Mass.

Dear Mr. Gifford:

Will you be so kind as to lend us your Italian Victory medal. Mr. Gilliglen is very anxious to have one in order that he may photograph it and write a description of it for his forthcoming monograph on Italian Decorations. If you do not mind, I wish you would send it direct to him (432 West Price Street, Philadelphia).

Also, if without too much inconvenience, could you lend to us that wonderful book on Austrian Orders which you showed me when I was in Boston? I beg to thank you.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW/E

C. S. GIFFORD
36 TEMPLE PLACE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
(P. O. ADDRESS-BOX 5274, BOSTON 4)

MAY 31 1923

Dear Mr. Wood:

I have your letter and will send to you tomorrow-June 1st.- the work on Austrian medals and orders. Please preserve the wood and cardboard backing for use when returning. You may keep this until October as we leave for the summer next Monday for four months and you may as well use this during this time. As to the Italian Victory: this is in process of labelling and exhibiting at the Art Museum and hardly available just now. I expect my exhibit will be ready tomorrow or next day and I will see if this medal can then be withdrawn without harm to the whole. I think that it would be better in that case to have the photo taken here and send copies to Gillingham. It would take less time.

Hastily yours,

C. S. G.

Sending Austrian by express. prepaid - insured for \$100.

June 2nd, 1923

Mr. G. S. Gifford
P.O. Box 5274
Boston, 4, Mass.

Dear Mr. Gifford:

Thank you for your letter of May 31st.

If withdrawing the Italian Victory medal will prove troublesome, please don't do anything about it.

If, however, it is possible to photograph the two sides, it would answer our purpose just as well and please have the bill sent to us.

Very truly yours,

HW/E

June 6th, 1923

Mr. C. S. Gifford
P.O. Box 5274
Boston, 4, Mass.

Dear Mr. Gifford:

I am very much obliged to you for lending us the book on Austrian medals and decorations. It certainly is a very fine work and I appreciate the loan very much. I shall be glad to avail myself of your suggestion to keep it throughout the summer, and will see that it is returned to you as soon as you return home.

Trusting that you will have a very pleasant summer away, I am

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW/E

June 27th, 1923

Mr. C. S. Gifford
P.O. Box 5274
Boston, 4, Mass.

Dear Mr. Gifford:

Some time ago I think you wrote Mr. Gillingham concerning the John Paulding André medal. Is there any way of seeing this here in New York in order to compare it with the Museum's specimen? If so, I would like to do so in the fall.

I have found the Austrian book a great help; it has enabled me to work out all the knotty problems in these Decorations.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW/E



Monday
7/2

Dear Mr. Wood:

I have your letter and am glad the Austrian book was helpful. - As to Italian Victory. The Keeper of the Dept. did not want to have the medals taken out of case and offered to have the Museum photographers do the job - obverse + reverse. He went to Europe a few days after that and having nothing, I went up & saw the Ass't. Keeper who said that the matter would be followed up and report made. It seems the only way out. If I had known a week earlier, I could have done it easily.

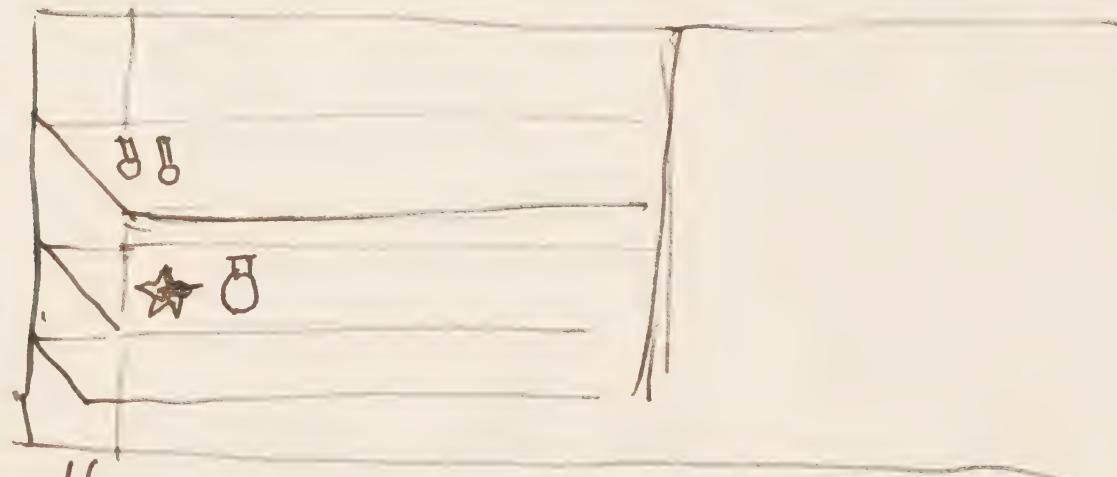
Gill was here the 16th - 19th.
He reviewed the collection on the 16th
and my wife and daughter & I
dined with him the 19th just
before he went back.

He spent much time in the
Museum & filled some body
full with an interview to the
end that a full page article
is to appear soon in the
~~Transcriber~~ - illustrated. He
warned me something would
explor in that line but would
not say more. It was written
without my knowledge and I
am curious to see what it is.

I will push Italian V. all I can -
faithfully

Collection is attracting much attention at
the Museum & press is favorable.

Have two cases about 24 ft long
in toto - + 8 feet high arranged thus.



Sloping
shelves.
looks
very well
a tremendous!!

July 5th, 1923

Mr. C. S. Gifford
P.O. Box 5274
Boston, 4, Mass.

Dear Mr. Gifford:

Don't go to too much trouble about photo岩ching, the Itaian Victory medal, because I think about the time we shall need it, I may get one from the other side; and, undoubtedly, Mr. Gillings will pick one up. If, however, they are really going ahead with the photograghing, don't stop them.

I would like to see the account in the Transcript when it comes out. I am glad to know that the collection is attracting much attention - in fact, I knew it would! How long do you expect it to remain at the Museum?

Very truly yours,

Curator

HV/E

C. S. GIFFORD
36 TEMPLE PLACE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
(P. O. ADDRESS-BOX 5274, BOSTON 4)

August 21/23

Dear Mr. Wood:

I sent you some time since the photos of the Italian Victory medal which the Art Museum had taken for me and for which they made no charge.

Did you receive them? and will you return (if so) to me when cuts have been made.

I also sent you the Transcript article on my exhibit at the Museum. Did you receive it?

I absolutely shalve all responsibility for the account and its exaggerations in that article.

Gillingham when here for the S. of R. convention in June just happened on Barrows at the Museum when the latter was taking notes and gave him all the dope. I did not know of the article or see it until it was in type.

I am summoned to appear before the Appraisal Board in response to my protest against the 80% duty on imports of Orders, Decorations and Medals. This appearance is slated for Wednesday, Sept. 12th at 10.30 a.m. I am writing Mr. Newell in this mail also giving my ideas for supporting testimony. If he is out of the country or where an answer from him will not reach me in plenty of time prior to the hearing, will you open the letter and act? I shall have U.S. Commissioner Hayes with me but I shall need all the support I can get. Will you reply promptly?

Faithfully yours C. S. Gifford

I am also writing Mr. Noe, in case you are away, to open both letters.

C. S. GIFFORD
36 TEMPLE PLACE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
(P. O. ADDRESS-BOX 5274, BOSTON 4)

Dear Mr. Newell:

I have just received a summons to appear before the Board of Appraisal on Wednesday, Sept. 12th. at 10.30 A.M. to plead my case against the 80% duty on Orders, Decorations and Medals.

I need every bit of support that I can get to gain my end.

I do not anticipate any opposition unless the American Legion gets wind of the hearing BUT we need heavy support- opposition or not.

I think the views of high military and naval officers as well as those of artists and sculptors as to the status of these imports would be of help.

Whether any or all of these men consider such imports as JEWELRY or insignia for services well or bravely done is something that verbal or spoken testimony will count for a great deal.

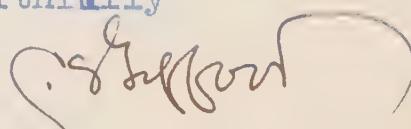
I feel that simply numismatic support would be considered rather partisan but the support of others like Pershing, Sims, Fraser, Borglum or any men of their type and standing would help greatly.

As this is, as far as I know, a rather informal affair letters would serve the purpose full as well as actual testimony.

Please act promptly and send any letters to me at BOX 5274, BOSTON. This is written very hastily but use telegraph at my expense if necessary. Address wires to 36 Temple Place.

Faithfully

August 31 1923



September 11th, 1913

Mr. C. S. Gifford
Box 5274, Boston

Dear Mr. Gifford:

Please excuse the belated reply to your letters of August 31st, but we have all been intermittently away during the past week.

Neither Mr. Newell nor I can see how we can help you very much in a concrete manner, as moral support, of course, is no earthly use! We do not see very well how we can get in touch with any of the big Army and Navy officers, and about very much is known now in a military way. We will try to see Frazer; but knowing him as we do, we doubt if he can render much assistance. I think your chief plea to the fact that Decorations should not be considered jewellery is that they are issued by Governmental authority, and the actual Decorations are given in nearly every case by the Governmental themselves. Of course, we both understand that duplicates or replacements can be bought by certain authorized dealers or manufacturers. The only instances where I would consider decorations as jewellery would be where Royalty or the Nouveau Riché have had their decorations encrusted with precious or semi-precious stones - but those instances are always self-evident.

I received, and I have acknowledged, the photograph of our Italian Victory medal, and I am herewith returning it, for which many thanks.

I also received the Transcript article, and read it with much interest.

Shortly I will return to you your portions of Austrian Decorations.

Very truly yours,

H. /

Curator

C. S. GIFFORD
36 TEMPLE PLACE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
(P. O. ADDRESS-BOX 5274. BOSTON 4)

Dear Mr. Wood:

Sept. 15, 1923

I received your letter with the enclosure of the Italian Victory photos for which I thank you.

I appeared before the court of Appraisal the other day in re. the duty on medals, orders and decorations. The master hearing the cases was really impressed with the historical importance of such imports and while the Government Attorney took exceptions to my testimony, the master allowed all mine to stand. Furthermore the master suggested that I file additional evidence to support my contention.

Can you or Mr. Newell get somebody well-known in art or historical circles to write me a letter as to the historical value of these things?

I would like two such letters written on official paper both of which I will submit with my letter to the master and to the Atty. General.

From the attitude of the master who sat in behalf of the Board of Appraisers, I feel sure that he is very much in favor of admitting these insignia free but as the final decision lies with the New York board I need every boost I can get to support my contention. If you can get these two letters, please send them to reach me not later than next Saturday, the 22nd. I am limited by the Board to a certain day in filing my additional evidence.

I am working the Boston end for letters and evidence also.

Hastily,

(S. Gifford)

September 19th, 1923

Mr. C. S. Gifford
P.O. Box 5274
Boston, 4, Mass.

Dear Mr. Gifford:

We have been vary much interested in your endeavor to have the duties on Decorations changed from its classification under Jewelry. We cannot conceive how they ever became so classified. Our Museum considers the insignia of Orders of Knighthood, Decorations, Medals and Badges, given by Governments to individuals in Peace or War, as of the utmost historical value and importance. As you know, our exhibition space is pretty equally divided between -

Medals, shown for their artistic excellence
Decorations, for their historical importance and interest
Coins and medals, for their numismatic and historical value.

The National Museum at Washington, in its Department of History, has laid considerable stress on Orders and Decorations - especially since the outbreak of the Great War. A large part of one of its galleries is given over to the display of badges, and they have imported a great number from Europe for exhibition purposes.

The Mint Collection at Philadelphia, before its consolidation with the National Museum Collection, had the beginnings of a very excellent display of pieces; and its Curator appreciated the importance of this sub-division of numismatics.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HR/E

September 19th, 1923

Mr. Carleton S. Gifford
P.O. Box 5274
Boston, 4, Mass.

Dear Mr. Gifford:

The enclosed letter I hope will be of use to you, also the enclosed periodical. I have written to Col. Falis, and I am sure he would be glad to help you out if he could, but there is the possibility that he is still away.

My reason for not answering your letter earlier is that I have been trying to find somehow whereby we could be of service to you, and if anything further occurs to me which would be likely to help along your line of attack, I shall be glad to do what I can. I had, too, been expecting to see Lowell before he sails on Saturday next, but he has had so much to do that he has little time to spare for the Museum just now.

Wishing you the best of luck,

Very truly yours,

Curator

R.W/B
Enc.

CARLETON S. GIFFORD
340 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE
BOSTON 17, MASSACHUSETTS

Dear Mr. Wood:

I have your letter with the pamphlet. I am very grateful for them. I think I will write Mr. Belote whose article appears in the letter and see if I can get a letter from him in approval of my course.

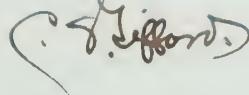
It seems a paradox that the Govt. sought items for their collection and exhibitions of medals etc. from collectors like Gillingham when it assessed the very collectors the JAIL rate at customs.

I am sure if I can get several letters from museum authorities and the like similar to yours that I can get a re-classification. I have asked for an extension of time to Oct. 10th for filing my additional evidence and if you can get in touch with other sources before then it will help a lot.

I suppose Gill. will be home in a week or so and he has got to get busy too.

Did you know there was a Society of the Silver Greyhound here in America? I have been asked to contribute a chapter on the King's Messengers for a book to be published on our activities in the recent War in a similar organization which was very closely allied with the K.M.s overseas.

Faithfully yours,



Sept. 20/63

September 21st, 1923.

Mr. Carleton S. Gifford,
340 Commonwealth Avenue,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Gifford:

I thought of writing to Mr. Belote myself but did not as he was a Government Official and might not care to give his opinion in a government case, nevertheless I see no reason why you should not write him.

Dr. George F. Kunz, c/o Tiffany & Company, New York, might be able to help you. If you write him direct you could lay out at first hand the class of argument you want. I have not heard from Colonel Falls.

Whether it would have any weight or not, you could state, if the opportunity presented itself rightly, that our institution as well as other Museums get their badges for exhibition in free of duty, therefore we have no axe to grind in desiring a lower tariff.

I did not know that there was a Society of the Silver Greyhound in America. Have they a badge or decorations?

Very truly yours,

Curator.

CARLETON S. GIFFORD
340 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE
BOSTON 17, MASSACHUSETTS

Dear Mr. Wood:

I have been so busy with my Customs case and getting letters to file with my protest that due acknowledgements have been delayed perforce.

I may have to reopen the case to admit all this new evidence which I have. In that case I may have to get spoken evidence from witnesses as letters may not be accepted. I feel the case is won already but do not wish to take a chance.

I am grateful for your help and letter.

Do you know what the enclosed rubbing is ? A bank customer left the original with me for valuation.

Storer thinks it a mule with Charles II obverse who died in 1685 with a reverse of 1690.

Also can you tell me about a Siamese silver piece stamped with an eagle or elephant or a man ? Very indefinite but a customer gave me the exact impression which I have lost. She said that one of these was valuable the others not. Can you help me out?

I had a fine letter from Belote of the National Museum on the historical status of medals etc. I had a h-----ll of a time getting it owing to governmental red tape but the Museum under the Treasury Dept. places a different classification on such than the Customs of the same department. Another ~~mule~~.

Cordially yours,

October 15 1923



October 18th, 1923.

Mr. C. S. Gifford,
G.P.O. Box 5274,
Boston 4, Mass.

Dear Mr. Gifford:

I trust that you will be able to carry on your case without any mishap. I am glad that you have gotten a letter from Belote. Is there anything further that you can think of for me to write you. Newell is now in Europe.

The coin you sent a rubbing of is a crown of James II struck in Ireland when he was defending his life and kingdom. These pieces are known as gun money because they were supposed to have been made from the bronze of old guns, and were a token money pure and simple, as there was no value to speak of in these pieces. Your piece was struck over a half-crown of the previous year.

I can not help you with your Siamese coin without see it as there are so many varieties of these.

Very truly yours,

Curator.

CARLETON S. GIFFORD
340 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE
BOSTON 17, MASSACHUSETTS

OCT 19 1923

Dear Mr. Wood:

I have your letter relative to the James II crown for which I thank you very much.

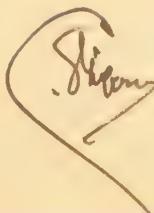
As to the Customs case, there have been so many peculiar angles to it that I am fairly bewildered.

I have spent many hours getting stuff together and am rather wearied with the job. My friend, Federal Judge Hayes here is coaching me and has asked me to come to get his advice on Monday next.

From my correspondence with Jerry Sullivan, the President of the Appraisal Board sitting in N.Y., the situation looks very favorable but I never feel sure until a judgement is rendered.

Certainly, I shall be satisfied that I did all I could as my own attorney and witness, single handed. No there is nothing more I can do now the time limit is up but I appreciate your offer none the less. Did I tell you Frits Holm wrote me regarding my Museum exhibit ? He wanted me to help him write a book on Orders etc. but wished to pose as sole author BUT would mention me (if I were a decorated person) and if I would finance the publication. More anon.

Faithfully yours,

Carleton S. Gifford

October 29th, 1923.

Dear Mr. Gifford:

I returned to you Saturday, by express prepaid, the book on Austrian Decorations. I want to thank you very much for the loan of this. I have used it constantly during the summer in fixing up our Austrian pieces.

As near as I can make out Fritz Holm has been bombarding everybody to help him. He is a charming fellow composed of eleven-tenths nerve, seven-tenths swank, eight-tenths bluff and sixty-four-tenths conceit.

Very truly yours,

Curator.

Mr. Carleton S. Gifford,
340 Commonwealth Avenue,
Boston, Mass.

C. S. GIFFORD
36 TEMPLE PLACE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
(P. O. ADDRESS-BOX 5274, BOSTON 4)

October 30 1923

Dear Mr. Wood:

I have your good letter. The Austrian work came today. I was about to write you to hold it until Gill could see it but he will see it sometime ~~soon~~. Have you a copy of Cappelletti on Italian things? I enclose a GIFOGRAPH of a bronze piece.

What is it and is it worth anything?

I am re-opening my Customs case and it will be heard here on December 5th. I did this at the advice of the President of the Board of Appraisers and on that of U.S. Judge Hayes who will represent me at that time. I may need witnesses and may call on you at the time-expenses paid.

It is practically admitted that the case is won but to make sure that technicalities do not intervene, I am taking this course.

I quite agree with your tenths regarding Holm. I would add 100/10ths to NERVE and CONCIT—you might make the latter 1300/10ths. You insult him (as I did) by writing his name FRITZ. Please understand (as I do now) that it is FRITS.

He is now in Europe hunting a DECORATED person who will finance his book. I could not fill the bill as I have no decorations. Yes, I have no decorations—personally.

Faithfully,



November 15th, 1923

Mr. C. H. Gifford
P.O. Box 5274
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Gifford:

I held the Austrian book until Gillingham had had a chance to see it. I think that we shall be able to obtain a copy of it as our Consul at Prague is on the trail of one, and we have sent him the money.

Your rubbing of a crude copper coin is at hand. All that I can say is, that it belongs to one of the petty Indian states. There are a great number of these coins with such fragmentary inscriptions, and no one has been able to attribute them correctly. The piece has no value.

The package containing the coins reached here the other day. The large round piece is a Siamese taler made about 1840 or 1850. It is worth very little over face value.

The rectangular piece is a Japanese one-shu piece made in 1853, and as it is holed is worth hardly more than silver value, 10 or 15 cents.

The little round coin is a current $\frac{1}{4}$ -real of Guatemala, and worth from 3 to 5 cents.

I am returning these, under separate cover.

Very truly yours,

Curator

M/E

BOSTON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY
C. S. GIFFORD, PRESIDENT
340 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

JAN 29 1924

Mr. Howland Wood
American Numismatic Society
Broadway at 156th St.
New York City.

Dear Mr. Wood:

A friend has given me the two enclosed coins for identification.

Will you fill the bill and let me know their approximate value ?

It would seem that an officer of the above Society would, by virtue of the suffrage of his associates, be able to dispense information regarding anything numismatic-but he isn't.

I warned the attendance that I was a very poor amateur but it had no effect on the election.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in ink, appearing to read "C. S. Gifford". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "C" and "S" followed by "Gifford".

January 31st, 1924

Mr. Carleton S. Gifford
Box 5274
Boston, 4, Mass.

Dear Mr. Gifford:

I see that Honours have been thrust upon you! I congratulate you! If you, however, had been elected Secretary, I would have offered my sympathy, as I have held this job in various organizations.

The two coins about which you write, are as follows -

The larger coin is a 4-real piece of Joseph Napoleon, struck in Spain. It was later counter-stamped, as far as I can make out, in Central America for use there - that is, the square lattice countersamp. Later in its career, it got to China where several bankers, endorsements or schroffs have been stamped on it. It has no special value.

The smaller coin is a 2-real piece struck at Potosi in Bolivia in 1761. It is known as a "cob" on account of the rough shape. All the pieces of this period were struck any old way. This piece is really worth very little more than its value in silver.

Very truly yours,

Encs.

Curator

C. S. GIFFORD
36 TEMPLE PLACE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
(P. O. ADDRESS-BOX 5274, BOSTON 4)

FEB - 3 1924

Dear Mr. Wood:

Sorry to bother you again so soon but these enclosed crosses have just come to me and while I think the D.S.C. is alright, the V.C. does not look right to me. It is a curious anomaly, the latter, in some ways. Pte. Byrne was awarded the V.C. at Omdurman on September 2, 1890 and gazetted Nov. 15th. of that year. The date in the circle is June 20, 1890 which does not fit at all. His regt. is correct - 21st Lancasters.

V.C. have ever been made by Hancock's in London. Striking was first tried but was not a success so they are cast and handtooled afterwards. This cross appears to have been struck altho the tooling may have been so good as to make it appear so. Aside from the wrong date on the rev., it looks like an erasure and fresh dating altho a strong glass does not reveal traces of another date. I have compared with cuts and photos of earlier types but this does not seem quite to match up. The curve in the lion's tail is not quite the same: detail of the crown differs and the raised border lines are narrower than the old r crosses. Of course new molts may have been made often since 1890 and altered in minor ways. Your O'Neil cross was issued in 1867 but I wish you would compare this with it and see what you think. Make a brief comparison of the D.S.C. also with yours, please. I enclose envelope for return registered post. I shall send the V.C. later to Hancock's, London for opinion.

Fact fall
C. S. Gifford

February 12th, 1924

Carleton S. Gifford, Esq.
P.O. Box 5274
Boston, 4, Mass.

Dear Mr. Gifford:

I am very sorry to say that both the V.C. and the D.S.C. are fakes. The D.S.C. is in Varis imitation. The genuine are a little larger and much thicker. The ribbon also is a much darker blue. The V.C. is not a genuine one - it is struck, and all of the real ones were cast, as you know. We have a struck specimen, but from entirely different dies than from that which you have. I think that your man probably lost or had stolen his original, and went to some concern and bought this one; he possibly was a littleazy on the exact date of its award when he had the new date engraved upon it. I have heard of similar instances where men have lost their original medal and have gotten others off; however, do not know whether the Government furnishes them as a re-issue any medal at all; if it does, it may be a struck piece like the one you have. It would be well to enquire when next you are writing to England.

How did you, or how are you, coming up with your Customs case? I have had no word lately from you with regard to the matter.

Mr. Gillingham was asking after you the other day.

Very truly yours,

Curator

C. S. GIFFORD
36 TEMPLE PLACE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
(P. O. ADDRESS-BOX 5274, BOSTON 4)

FEB 12 1924

Dear Mr. Wood:

No decision has been rendered as yet on my
variance case altho the Board has had the evidence
since December 18th last. I should get word from
them any day now.

Il existe un autre moyen de faire varier la vitesse d'un moteur à deux temps : c'est de varier la pression dans la chambre de combustion. Cela peut être fait par l'intermédiaire d'un régulateur de pression.

That may be correct. I doubt it.

Yours sincerely,



BOSTON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY
C. S. GIFFORD, PRESIDENT
340 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

February 28 1924

Dear Mr. Wood:

In addition to foisting the job of President upon me, I was also made Chairman of a Committee to solve and balance the Tercentenary Medal account. As Storer is in the Spanish Main (chasing Admiral Vernon, I suppose) and will not be back until April, I am stumbling along without his recollections of many sales, etc. Wheeler said last night at the meeting that he thought that you or the Society took some of these medals in the chance of a possible sale. Did you, and how many? Were any sold?

A friend out in Chic has sent me a bronze or copper medal, a GILCOGRAPH of which I enclose.

Do you know it? I opine that it is just a medal presented to its volunteer regiments by the State. Is there any work that deals with medals such as these? Do you think from the slight indentation just above the unraised wreath on the obverse and a nearly similar one in the same position on the reverse might indicate suspension of some sort originally?

Sincerely yours,



Killed in Battle }
Died in Service } Rose
Honorable Discharge) (For LIBERTY

Pearl cloth red w/ Blue
ribbon back of sh.

March 1st, 1924

Mr. C. S. Gifford
P.O. Box 5274
Boston, 14, Mass.

Dear Mr. Gifford:

I returned two or three of the Pilgrim medals as well as the money received for those sold to some one of the Boston Society. I think at the A.N.A. Convention, when it was held in Boston, I gave them to Dr. Storer. Just at the moment, I cannot get my finger on any receipt - if I had one!

The medal, of which you sent a rubbing, is known as the West Virginia Civil War, given to honorably discharged soldiers. There are two other medals with different obverse designs - one for Fallen in Battle, and the other for Died in Service. All of these pieces are suspended from a swivel bar, and a red, white and blue ribbon hangs from this bar. The one, of which you enclosed a rubbing, is the commonest of the three. In the form in which yours is, which is incomplete, I doubt if it is worth much of anything.

Very truly yours,

Curator

CARLETON S. GIFFORD
340 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE
BOSTON 17, MASSACHUSETTS

March 3 1924

Dear Mr. Wood:

I am very grateful for the information about the W. Va. medal which, I thought, is not valuable. Simply it was that of a father or grandfather who fought in the Civil War and was not for sale at any price.

As to the B.R.S. medals. It seems when Foster Stearns put up \$750. to pay 5/6ths of the cost of the medal, he borrowed it from his father, Frank W.—the Presidentmaker. Father has dunned us from time to time in a pleasant way but we have been unable to meet him because the medals were not half sold, some 175 being on hand. The trouble was that there was no live committee named to push the sale which should have been done in 1921. A slight effort at that time would have (at Plymouth) caused late comers to go without at \$4. per. Furthermore apparently no central record was kept of the transactions. Jones, Smith Robinson and Brown took 6 or 8 or 10 and turned in \$23.70 up to \$34.72 and a medal and naturally the balance sheet does not balance as no record of any kind was kept as to sales, expense and balance left. In consequence I have been striving to see where we are at. I am about 7 medals short and I am trying to locate them. I am not criticising the former regime. Probably someone was sent 5 medals and still has them. Some of the others were sold.

CARLETON S. GIFFORD
340 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE
BOSTON 17, MASSACHUSETTS

at a reduced price or expenses of advertising etc. may have reduced the cash turned which, in absence of any information I have, divided by \$4. and made the basis of my figures. I could do nothing else under the circumstances.

Storer is gallivanting in the Caribbean and were here he could give me some details that would clear up the account wholly from his memory.

Foster Stearns is in this country on leave and will see me on his return to Boston. We want to get the medal burden off our backs and do what we can to meet his wishes on the matter.

We voted at last meeting to have yearly dues of 7c. and these are now payable to Comstock for 1924. Further a certificate of membership is being evolved and will be forthcoming sometime this spring.

It was only to tap every source of possible enlightenment that I wrote you, Wheeler having said that he thought you had a few. Storer's report of medals on hand therefore included yours.

With thanks and best wishes, I am
Cordially yours,

Gifford

CARLETON S. GIFFORD
340 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

March 8 1924

Dear Mr. Wood:

Mr. Gillingsham wrote Sept. 11, 1923,
that he was soon to give an illustrated lecture
on American Medals and Decorations and asked him
for a photo of the PURPLE HEART from which to
make a lantern slide. As I had the photos made
originally, the Captain appealed to me but I
cannot locate the one or two copies that I may
have as they are not in my file of casts in re. TH.

As G. would like it soon, I thought you had
better send him the copy that I sent you. I am
sure I sent G. a copy also but am not delaying
to verify that impression. I shall have some
more struck off just to have on hand but did not
want to keep the lecturer waiting.

Sometime when you're writing will you give
me the translation of EMMA NE PEREANT and the
significance of the oak leaves and acorns in
our seal? I done it." Least small details
be overlooked (perish)", the "reat oaks from
little acorns grow" typifying the result of
careful attention to detail. Many SMS members
have asked me, Fellow, and I have declined to
commit myself.

Faithfully yours,



CARLETON S. GIFFORD
340 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

March 10 1924

Dear Mr. Wood:

I am again trespassing on your good nature in sending you by parcel post a lot of foreign coins for opinion. They were sent to me by virtue of my high office in the BMS by a professor at Wellesley who found them in the effects of a relative whose estate she will have to. It is a heterogeneous mass and includes almost every country except Mars and Saturn. I thought there might be one or two things in the lot of value to the Society or to some fellow Fellow. Being in the banking business as well as in my position as a would-be numismatist, I get much of this stuff handed me.

If sending these items to you is a nuisance please let me know frankly. I do not know where else to send them. That medal or token of the map of France is odd.

With the lot was a collection of Confederate, state bank bills, those of private concerns and a large number of the Colonial Bank of Canada of series A.B.C.D.-un-signed. Altogether a hundred pieces. I am not bothering you with them.

Sincerely yours,

C. Gifford

Mr. Wood
from C. Gifford

March 11th, 1924

Mr. C. S. Gifford
Box 5274, Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Gifford:

I have spent a whole hour looking for the photograph of the Purple Heart. Ever since you sent it here, it has been kept in a certain place; and now that I really want it, it is gone! If in the next few days, I do find it I will be glad to forward it to Mr. Gillingham.

You are right about the motto of the Society - Little things do not perish. The acorn motif is as you made out - Their capability of growing into big things.

Very truly yours,

Curator

March 15th, 1924

Mr. G. S. Gifford
Box 5274
Boston, 4, Mass.

Dear Mr. Gifford:

The package of coins arrived yesterday, and I have looked them over. They are a most pathetic lot! The whole bunch is not worth more than \$5 or \$6. I see nothing there that I want. What more do you wish me to do with those? They are really too poor to spend any time in classifying them.

Very truly yours,

Curator

March 29th, 1924

Mr. C. S. Gifford
Box 5274
Boston, 4, Mass.

Dear Mr. Gifford:

While in Washington the other day, I was speaking to Mr. Belote, Department of History, U. S. National Museum, about the Purple Heart and mentioned the fact that you had photographs of this. As you wrote that you were having more prints made, would you mind sending a copy to him, and as I am unable to find mine, perhaps you would kindly send me another print. I would also like to tell Mr. Belote when, where and how this was found, and where it is now!

Very truly yours,

Curator

CARLETON S. GIFFORD
340 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

March 31 1924

Dear Mr. Wood:

I have your letter and enclose photos of the PURPLE HEART, one each for you and Mr. Belote. Shortly after I wrote you I ran across the former copies I had made, in a place not where they should be. Mr. Belote wrote me a very good letter on the value of Orders and Medals as historical items and the letter was included in the exhibits of my customs case as was your letter. This case has not yet been decided but now that it has been pending over three months, I should hear any day now. The U.S. Commissioner, Hayes, who was my attorney in the matter will, I am afraid, never know the outcome as he is dying, so the Transcript says tonight, from an over strained heart.

He is 82 years old. The PURPLE HEART was found in a deserted farm house in N.H. by Capt. Willey who was poking around, hunting for any old uniforms he might run across. He has leisure and old uniforms and insignia are rather a hobby of his. The uniform upon which this heart was sewed was hanging in a wood shed and the woolen background was riddled with moth holes (one of you can see just below the heart itself). As the house has stood empty for a long while there was no way to learn the history but it seems no doubt authentic as the existence of the badge is known but to a few and if it were counter-

CARLETON S. GIFFORD
340 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

been

feit, it would have not have left there in the old house but exploited far and wide. The centre of the heart is a figured lavender silk-faded no doubt from the original purple. The edging is a tarnished silver braid. The heart is now the property of the Order of the Cincinnati of Exeter, N.H. having been given to it by Willey.

He is a member of the Order and has done much to help and build up the N.H. chapter, which will before long publish a monograph on the Purple Heart written by Willey. No one knows much of anything about the badge and it is a case of getting a little here and there and piecing together. Washington's Book of Records would throw much light but no one knows where it is now. Charles R. Bolton, librarian of the Boston Athenaeum, wrote some years ago a book, "The Revolutionary Soldier", which is considered the best authority on the subject, I believe, and is used as a guide in pageants, plays, movies where accuracy is desirable. It is entirely out of print and his publishers have asked to be allowed to publish a new edition and Bolton has asked me to supply him with the data I have as the basis of an additional chapter dealing entirely with the PURPLE HEART and the BADGE OF MERIT. I had a curious item, or rather a sketch of it, showed me the other day for identification. It was an oval locket with a broad loop for suspension. The background was blue enamel. The design a St. Andrew's cross sur-

CARLETON S. GIFFORD
340 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

mounted at the intersection of the arms by a crown. Between the two upper arms of the cross were was a thistle: between the two lower arms was a thistle also. The spaces between the arms at the sides were inverted fleur-de-lys.

These were the principal features. The inverted lilies are, of course, a French Restoration badge. Did Charles I have Scotch affiliations?

The sketch being of the most crude sort leaves much to the imagination as I have not seen the locket itself. Does this combination suggest anything to you?

Sincerely yours,



April 3rd, 1924

Mr. C. S. Gifford
Box 5274
Boston, 4, Mass.

Dear Mr. Gifford:

Your letter at hand and I will forward the photograph to Mr. Belete. Very many thanks for this and for the copy for myself. I will see that I do not lose this one! I am much obliged to you for your full letter which I was very glad to get.

I cannot help you at all on the locket with St. Andrew's Cross. I really think it has not much significance. I should put it down rather Scottish than French.

I am planning to go off in a few days for several months, but will blow into the Society now and then.

Very truly yours,

6

Curator

April 15th, 1924

Harrold E. Gillingham, Esq.
432 West Price Street
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Mr. Gillingham:

I should be glad to have you send on the Decorations, but I think the sundials and compasses are not exactly fitted to our exhibit. If you don't mind, I should very much like to keep the Decorations a little longer than Easter week.

The medal, of which you sent a rubbing, is the Turkish Campaign Medal for Montenegro, 1862.

I think Noe will be out of the hospital tomorrow or the next day.

Very truly yours,

Curator

CARLETON S. GIFFORD
340 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

November 11 1924

Dear Mr. Wood:

I hope your rest this summer has done you much good and that you are back refreshed and rested. I am writing you to see if you know of any embryo or advanced collectors with whom I can get in touch with. The size of my collection has become a great care and responsibility, far more than I have time to assume. I have therefore decided to dispose of my duplicates which, in the British are those with less rare bars and of other countries those which seem rather impersonal and uninteresting. There are among these of course many rarities but minor to those I retain. I prefer to dispose to collectors as they comprise medals and decorations that they would not ordinarily find. I shall sell them at cost to me. I want no profit- simply to come out whole. I therefore want the collector rather than the dealer to get them.

As you know, all are in fine or mint condition and to get such at cost instead of the gouging prices of dealers should appeal. I won my case on importation of medals, decorations etc. BUT it appears, on reading over the decision, that the issue is much be-fogged. I am mailing with this copies of my original testimony, The Board's decision, the "Spalding" case, and the Freet as to the extent of this decision. I have submitted these same papers to several lawyer friends and to a U.S. Judge and they all agree that I have won

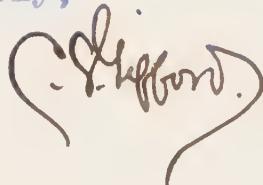
CARLETON S. GIFFORD
340 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

out. "Designed to be worn" and "actually bestowed" seem to stick in their crop. In my case the former expression seems to have gone into the discard: in the Sholding case, the latter is the point exclusive of re-sale. As a matter of fact, you know and I know that the order or medal has been "actually bestowed". The fact that the recipient has miniatures or duplicates for different uniforms makes no difference--these duplications (the they may number a dozen) represent an actual bestowal of the insignia.

The ribbon and rosette does not make these "jewelry" and the duty on the ribbon would not be over-at 4%--ten cents. I wont dwell further on the matter: I am too disgusted. I intend to carry the matter further by re-opening the case and have best counsel to argue these points. This when I can see time ahead to act as witness--the only one, as a matter of fact.

Kindly read the enclosed in orders A, B, C, D, and return. It is an interesting case and I think I will eventually win out but, as everyone knows, the Government is from MISSOURI.

Sincerely,



November 14th, 1924

Mr. C. S. Gifford
Box 5274
Boston, 4 Mass.

Dear Mr. Gifford:

I was very glad to hear from you, and also am glad to know that you won your suit; but, as you state, it seems more or less of a doubtful victory. Mr. Gillingham and I were speaking of this the other day and wondering how you had come out.

There seems to be extremely few medal collectors of Decorations. The only ones of whom I can think would possibly be interested at all, are:

Joseph H. Frayne, South Orange, N.J.
D. R. Overall-Hatwell, 1773 Geover Street, Hollywood, Cal.
J. M. Wainwright, 912 Clay Avenue, Scranton, Pa.
Elliott Smith, Ft. East 26th Street, East River, New York
Allen H. Wright, City Hall, San Diego, Cal.
Lt. Col. S. H. Andrews, C/o English Club, Philadelphia, Pa.

We, however, might be interested in acquiring some of your pieces. If you could send me a list with prices, I could look it over and let you know.. We are weak in bars on English medals.

We were much surprised and sorry to learn of Fred Joy's death.

I am enclosing the various documents, as requested.

Very truly yours,

Curator

CARLETON S. GIFFORD
340 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

November 23 1924

Dear Mr. Wood:

I am enclosing a list of the duplicates of my collection. If any appeal to you, will you just mark each item wanted with a X and I will send to you. I have listed all these at actual cost plus a slight margin for overhead so that I can come out whole. I wish you might have many of the Naval Gen. Service, the M.G.S. to Freeman, Scinde (so rare to Navy) and Cuzel Galley. The latter is the best of all and I doubt if there is another in U.S.A. It is of gold and in Mint Condition. I would like to donate any one or all desired to the ANS but I cannot. I will, however, give my society a discount of 10% from these prices, if any appeal.

This means less than cost to me but I would rather you have them than any one else and I am advertising the sale in the Dec. NUMISMATIST.

Of the names of collectors you sent, I wrote Col. Andrews, Phila. (returned - "not in directory")

Frayne is selling his lot at Elder's next sale in Dec. No answer to my letter to him, therefore.

Dr. Wainwright of Scranton is not buying now, he informs me. Elliott Smith of N.Y.C. has not replied. It is too early to hear from the others in the West.

Sincerely Yours,

C. Gifford

Would you care for that large Austrian book on orders?

November 25th, 1924

Mr. Carleton S. Gifford
340 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Gifford:

Many thanks for sending that list on. I would like to get the following medals:

April-May Boat Service	\$52.00
San Sebastián.....	2.50
Crimea French Reproduction	15.00
Crimea, to a Sardinian Soldier	2.50
Italian Crimea	7.00
Kaffir War.....	15.00
E. & W. Africa } to J. Fury	15.00
Zulu War , 1877 - 8 - 9	3.75
Boer Defense of Ladysmith	4.00
Hunzar Nagar	<u>12.50</u>
	114.25
Less 10%	<u>11.42</u>
	\$102.83

I will have a cheque made out for you later.
There are a number of others that we should like, but they are chiefly a matter of bars.

Have you written to Cillingham - he might like some of these.

Very truly yours,

Curator

Enc. List

C. S. GIFFORD
36 TEMPLE PLACE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
(P. O. ADDRESS-BOX 5274, BOSTON 4)

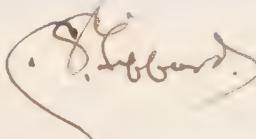
November 26 1924

Dear Mr. Wood:

I have your letter and thank you for the order for medals. The Apr/May Boat Service had been taken before the letter arrived. I sent the list to a friend who has a few such things as a matter of interest to him and to my great surprise he took all the N.G.S. excepting Java and Basque Roads. The rest I will send Friday a.m. You will find that French Crimea interesting and if you will put the British beside it, you will note that the obverse and reverse vary from the latter in minor ways. Evidently a French copy. I can find no one who knows or has written about it. What is TRAKTIR?

Deducting the Boat service leaves \$62.25 less 10% is even \$56. Perhaps you would like to order other one up to the amt. deducted, If, so I will send you the list again. Did I ask you if you wanted that work on Austrian things that I loaned you a year ago. Perhaps you secured a copy in Austria, altho it is out of print, I believe, and mostly owned by libraries, societies, etc. If you would like to buy it, I will sell it as it is such an unwieldy thing and Austrian things are not very interesting to me.

Sincerely yours



December 2nd, 1934

Mr. Carleton S. Gifford
340 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Gifford:

The medals came to hand yesterday, and I am rather sorry that the Boat Service medal could not be included. I am keeping all, with the exception of the Zulu War at \$3.75. This I had misread, and find that we already have such a specimen.

I knew there are some other medals which we should like to have, and if you will send me the list again, I will look it over with a view to choosing more.

The French Crimean medal is interesting. As yet, I have been unable to find out what the word "Traktir" means on the bar. I imagine it to be an engagement in which French troops took part.

There is one medal which I meant to order last time. It is one of the later campaigns with a bar for Waziristan.

Excuse me for not letting you know that we had that fine book on Austrian decorations. We were able to get this direct from the publishers shortly after we saw your copy.

Have you any non-English medals or decorations for sale? And have you any English Orders?

Very truly yours,

Enc.

Curator

C. S. GIFFORD
36 TEMPLE PLACE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
(P. O. ADDRESS-BOX 5274, BOSTON 4)

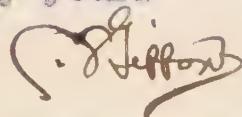
December 4 1901

Mr. Wood:

I have your letter with Bill enclosed. I am sorry to get both and the latter as I had a request from you which I had to decline. I will save you out of the list and send with whatever further I can find from enclosed catalog. May I ask that you will mail this list as soon as possible as I have only lists at present and as my adv. in the NUMIS. I will be out any day now and from what I hear there will be quite a heavy demand from dealers, I think, at these prices. I want collectors to have a good whack, however, and they will be given any preference. I have nothing more British than xixth century appears in this list. I have many but they are not in collection, not as duplicates. I am working day and nights on my list of medals and decorations of other countries and I think I can mail you a list by Friday or Monday. I am interested in your information on the French Crimean. If you find any mention of the issue in any work, do let me know about it and it would seem that you had from the list of you give.

If you will return the enclosed list early, I will hold up any orders until you express your preference. I will also mail you the first copy of the list of other countries under the same conditions. I would rather you have these than anybody and I wish I could donate the lot.

Cordially yours



December 6th, 1924

Mr. Carleton S. Gifford
340 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Gifford:

Thank you very much for so promptly sending back the list. We should be glad if you would let us have the following:

Waterloo.	Belgian Waterloo Veterans...	\$4.00
Ind.Gen.Service	Parak	3.00
" "	N. E. Frontier, 1891	3.00
" "	Waziristan	4.00
Egypt	Suakin, Tofrek	7.00
"	Gemaizah, Teski	8.00
E. & W. Africa	Mwele	4.00
African Gen.Ser.	Jubaland	<u>11.00</u>
		44.00
	Less 10 %	<u>4.40</u> \$39.60

Thanks for your promise to mail us the first copy of items of other countries; we shall be glad to have it.

Very truly yours,

List enclosed.

Curator

December 13th, 1924

Mr. Carleton S. Gifford
Box 5274, Boston, 4, Mass.

Dear Mr. Gifford:

The list of the Foreign Decorations and English medals just received. I have directed the bank to send you next week a cheque for these English medals, and I will report on the Foreign Decorations in a few days.

Some time ago, we received some sort of a notice that a book on the Purple Heart might be issued. Do you know if anything further has been done about it?

I have not exhaustively traced down French references for the Crimean medal, but note the following facts:

In "Décorations, Médailles, Monnaies et Crochets du Musée de l'Armée," by Lt. Sculfort, p.55, there are listed nine of the Crimean medals as well as two of the Baltic. And a note is appended stating that these were instituted in 1854 by the Queen of England; and that French soldiers were authorized to wear them by Imperial Decree of April 26th, 1856.

In "Décorations Françaises", by Jules Martin, both the Crimean and Baltic medals are listed, with a note in substance the same as in the other book.

Very truly yours,

Curator

China			
Japan book & albums	55	5	
" " "	1	5	
Sweden color prints	20		
Soviet Russia	3		
Spain before Madrid	14		
" after civil War	7		
" Cartagena	7		
Netherlands for our Troops	3		
" XX years	14		
" some but small	150		
" Order of the Latin Cross	23		
Italy Order of Military Merit	8		
Belgium Order of Military Merit	4		
" campaign against Austria	1		
Italy Order of the Crown	16		
" under I. Natale	1		
Volunteers for Italy	1		
" VIII Army	1		
" VII "	1		
" 1st " "	1		
" Bodice with state	5	350	
Russia money to help poor people	100	80	
			148 30

December 13th, 1924

Mr. C. S. Gifford
Box 5274
Benton, Ia., Mass.

Dear Mr. Gifford:

I am returning to you the list of Decorations,
and desire the following:

1	Applewood and Cedar	1.00
1	Evergreen, Birch & Holly wreath	1.00
1	Evergreen wreath with long spruce branches	1.00
1	Spruce Wreath, 12" diameter	.75
1	in Calfkin - Christmas tree skirt	.75
1	Wreath, 12" diameter, made of long green branches	.75
1	Wreath, 12" diameter, made of long green branches	.75

1	Small evergreen wreath	.60
1	Applewood wreath for doorway	.60
1	Applewood wreath, 12" diameter	.75
1	Applewood wreath, 12" diameter	.75

Many thanks for attention.

Very truly yours
H. L. Gifford

C. S. GIFFORD
36 TEMPLE PLACE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
(P. O. ADDRESS-BOX 5274, BOSTON 4)

December 15 1924

Dear Mr. Wood:

I have your two letters and I will send you tomorrow by H° insured. The plaque of the Crown of Italy and the Netherlands for Java are in the packing while the other are in boxes. Just be careful in unpacking. I made a mistake in describing the Netherlands awards for years of service.

The Maltese cross I described as XXX years but is XXV. I was concerned with the variant of the series rather than the years. If not satisfactory, return. Error was not intentional. As yours was the first list in, I am sorry that you did not order whatever else you wanted to see, on approval. I have been quite overcome with requests and all my lists are now out with more requests arriving daily. If there are any others you want on approval, so let me know promptly that you may have first chance.

I heard indirectly that a work on the Purple Heart was to be published but it is most indefinite. I will consult Willey and see what he may know about it.

I think with regard to the French Crimes medal that it is most unusual as no work that I have or know about mentions a reproduction of the British by a French medalist. French works mention and reproduce the British medal and the authority to wear etc. but none mention the French counterpart. Possibly the Musee de l'Armee may know about it. Certainly it is rare. Thanks for the order and I must say that I do not feel that I can allow but 5% discount on these as I lost out on the previous lot to you.

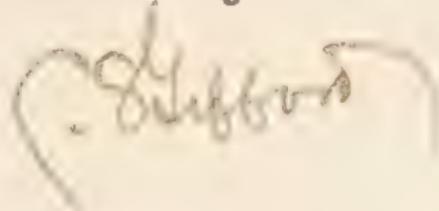
Sincerely,

C. Gifford.

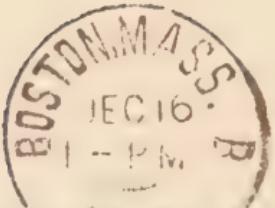
Dear Mr. Wood:

Since sealing your letter. I have this a.m. received several letters asking for many of the medals sent you today so if you will let me as soon as you can as to those you will keep, I would appreciate it.

sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive ink, appearing to read "C. Clifford". The signature is enclosed within a roughly drawn heart shape.

DEC 16 1924



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

ADDRESS
YOUR MAIL
TO
STREET AND
NUMBER



Mr. Howland Wood
American Numismatic Society
Broadway at 156th St
New York City

December 20th, 1924

Mr. C. S. Gifford
340 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Gifford:

The package came to hand safely yesterday morning and I shipped back nine of the pieces which I found I had, or that they were more or less similar to ours. As funds are now limited, I am keeping the most distinct varieties only. I am consequently holding fourteen pieces, and I trust that sending these to us on approval has not prevented the sale of those I have returned. A cheque will be forwarded to you next week.

Very truly yours,

Curator

Please return
to W. M. Gifford

C. S. GIFFORD
36 TEMPLE PLACE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
(P. O. ADDRESS-BOX 5274, BOSTON 4)

Dear Mr. Wood:

December 24 1925

I have your letter re the Death's Head medal. But as these two came to me at nearly the same time, I thought they might be allied in some fashion. As to Lundell, thanks-but he is a writer not a buyer. He answered my adv. last year and bought a few dollars worth and again this fall he asked me to send him some "showy" things-stars, higher ranks of orders. I did so. He bought \$17. worth and wanted the rest but cash was lacking just now. The same excuse was presented a year ago.

I recently wrote the President asking him to establish adequate peace time awards for bravery in the various arms of the service-and other awards all of which to be the counterparts of war time awards.

These to reward the feats of the 'Round-the-World fliers, Commr. Rodgers and his crew, the Shenandoah crew, etc.

I suggested that the rules of award of the Army and Navy M.H., D.S.C., D.S.M. be altered to serve the purpose in times of peace and distinguish the award by reversing the colors of the ribbons-keeping the medal design intact. The M.H. ribbon could be red or green with white stars: D.S.C.- red centre stripe and blue and white edge stripes and so on down thru the list. I also suggested the revival of the Purple Heart in that connection. The letter was referred to the War Dept. and both Secy. Davis and Secy. MacNider wrote the suggestion would have consideration and they would report progress. This is the usual departmental blah but if the Society approves the suggestion,

C. S. GIFFORD
36 TEMPLE PLACE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
(P. O. ADDRESS-BOX 5274, BOSTON 4)

might it not help if Mr. Newell wrote Davis a letter saying that I, a member of the Society, had outlined the suggestion and that the Society endorsed it.

As the matter stands today there is nothing that the Govt. can award but the Navy Cross which by some quirk applies in peace as well as war.

"Peace hath its victories no less than war" but it also has its heroes. They have not the excitement of action to spur them on. Just a sense of duty and discipline and the jury is- an indifferent populace.

Congressman Tinkham who lives a few doors from my home is a live wire and I am writing him.

He proposed in Congress a bill to reward Lt. Commr. Read with a medal when Read made his ~~fix~~ flight across the Atlantic. It was dished.

This suggestion of mine seems to fill the bill simply and without new atrocious designs- merely change in rules and new ribbons.

I donate the enclosed to the Society in res-
to Noe's plea. Trivial but nonetheless sincere.

Sincerely



Best wishes to you also at
this time. Thank you yours

CARLETON S. GIFFORD
340 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

October 1 1925

Mr. Howland Wood
American Numismatic Society
New York City.

Dear Mr. Wood:

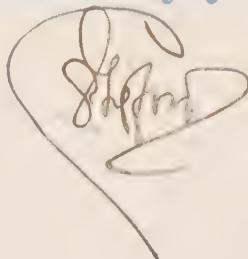
Would you
care to consider further purchase
of any of my duplicate medals ?

I will make a reduction of
15% off the cost price to the
amount of \$150. and 20% above that.

Packing up and storing each
year is rather a chore and I want
to clear the lot out if I can.

Let me know and I will send
lists- British and non-British-
two catalogs. If you know of
any likely buyers, please let
me know.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Carleton S. Gifford". The signature is enclosed within a stylized heart outline.

October 3rd, 1925

Mr. C. S. Gifford
Box 5274
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Gifford:

I was very glad to hear from you again. Personally, I would like to get some more of your duplicates, but unfortunately funds this year for buying are not only at a low ebb but there are several important things coming up in November which we ought to purchase, and just now we are making every effort to get hold of some of them. If there is anything left in my fund later, I shall be glad to write you again. Just at the moment, I know of no one especially interested in Decimations. The few half-married ones (for that is what they were) seem to have disappeared from sight. I can only think of our old standby, Mr. Gillingsaw, and he should be back any day now from an extremely long summer in France.

Very truly yours,

Curator

October 15th, 1925.

Mr. C. S. Gifford
Box 5274, Boston, 4, Mass.

Dear Mr. Gifford:

I was talking with Mr. Gillingham the other day, and he asked me to have you send on to me your list of decorations about which you wrote. As you know, Mr. Gillingham is now our Treasurer, and possibly there might be an opening soon to buy some of these decorations.

Very truly yours,

Curator

CARLETON S. GIFFORD
340 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

October 16 1925

Dear Mr. Wood:

I have your letter and I enclose my lists. I reserve the Gusei Galley medal and the Jardinism to Sherlock as they are so rare that I think I will include them in my main collection. The balance is subject to the discount I named. Every thing I send is, of course, subject to your approval.

I include two items which are not listed in the enclosed. One is the "Ehrenzeichen für rühmliche und Tapferkeit 1870-1"(pour les dames) with diploma signed by Carl Alexander of S.M.Z. This is a genuine award.

The other enclosed is curious award of the late war. It is for the East Prussia border guard. The certificate and black and white badge go together.

The other has something to do with this award as you will see from the obverse, the cross is the same. On the obverse the motto "UNDÖCH" is old German and rather untranslatable. The nearest we get is very broadly - "In to the death". It would seem that without doubt the two are related.

The African medals are especially good in that the bars are uncommon. Please remember kindly to Mr. Gillingsam and tell him that I will write him soon.

Sincerely yours,

(C. S. Gifford)

October 22nd, 1925

Mr. C. S. Gifford
Box 5274
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Gifford:

Your package with the lists of medals received.
I have sent one of the English lists to Mr. Gillingham,
and will look through your foreign list as soon as I
can find an opportunity.

Very truly yours,

Curator

December 2nd, 1925

Mr. Carleton S. Gifford
340 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Gifford:

I am full of apologies for not having returned your list of medals but I was holding them for someone else; and, then again, until the first of the month I could not tell whether we had any funds to purchase.

I wish you would send on the Chinese medal, the Tuscany Civil Merit Medal, and the eight Belgian medals which I have checked. These are all that I see now.

Although you mentioned in your letter the two Decorations which you sent in your package, you gave no price. I am interested in the Carl Alexander medal of Saxe Weimar.

I am, herewith, returning your various lists.

Very truly yours,

Encs.

Curator

CARLETON S. GIFFORD
340 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

December 4 1925

Mr. Howland Wood
American Numismatic Society
New York City.

Dear Mr. Wood:

I have your letter. It was perfectly alright to hold the catalogs as long as you wished.

I am sending you under separate cover by insured PPSH the items you asked for together with two others.

At the very top of the sheet following the Belgian items in my list is the Order of the Crown of Siam- officers with rosette. This item has your pencil check against it and I think that possibly in re-capping your selections you overlooked it. It was only by chance that I happened to see it.

Therefore I include in its original case of blue velvet with the gilt coat-of-arms on it. If my surmise is wrong, return it.

I also include an item not listed in the Belgian items. This item I could not identify at the time the list was made up so have not included it in my main collection. I would be glad to have you have it if you wish. It is the decoration given to officers in the Belgian Revolution of 1790. The ribbon, from its condition would seem to date from then also. The two light stripes were once undoubtedly yellow. I have just noticed that the Comm. Decoration of Belgium for service of officers to 1856 has the reverse centre missing. It was perfect originally but has disappeared since I first got it.

I send it at less than half price. If you don't want it, return it with Siam, Belgian 1790 or alone if you want the other two.

As to Carl Alexander and certificate, I will let you have them for \$16. The medal itself is rare and with the certificate far more so. I wish you might take the East Prussia item, also for \$14. These were bought for me by a friend on the other side of the families themselves with the exception of the Death's head medal which I assume from the reverse has a connection with it. I enclose an impression of the gilt X cross that I once sent you and which you have seen more than that time. I have identified it from a cut in a sale in Paris. It is to quote- ANHALT. Victor Ameeue de Schaumberg. Medaille Militaire. Rv. 14. IULI 1760. This having suspension only. You can have this if you want it.

I number the envelopes to correspond with the memo. Thank you so much for your interest and generous response.

Sincerely yours,

Gifford

CARLETON S. GIFFORD
340 COMMONWEALTH AVE.
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

in account with American Numismatic Society

1.	China	\$ 5.
2.	Tuscany	8.
3.	BELGIUM. Waterloo	10.
4.	" Unuer-officers service cross-LII	9.
5.	" Silver for privates-service 1856	6.
6.	" Milt. Dec. "One for all"etc.	10.
7.	" Order of the Lion. LION obv.	9.
8.	" " " STAR "	9.
9.	" Star for Africa.	10.
10.	SIAM Order of Crown. Officer (case)	16.-

TOTAL \$92.
15% 13.80

\$78.20

ADDITIONAL

11.	BELGIUM. Officers Comm. Decoration (see #5 above)	4.
12.	do Revolution of 1790 to Officers net	11.

TOTAL \$93.20

Carl Alexander ana certif. \$16.
East Prussia item. " 14.

Total \$30.

30.
\$123.20

December 12th, 1925

Mr. G. S. Gifford
P.O. Box 5274
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Gifford:

After another delay, I am sending back to you by express parcel post some of the medals that you sent here. Unfortunately, I fear that I am returning more than you will expect, but I found on examination that I had all the Belgian pieces. I was misled by your descriptions of them - which was different to the way I had them labelled.

I am keeping the Tuscany, the Star of Africa and the Siamese pieces, as well as the Carl Alexander medal.

I have directed the Bank to send you a cheque for \$46.00, which you should receive at the end of next week.

Very truly yours,

Curator

CARLETON S. GIFFORD

340 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

December 18 1925

Dear Mr. Wood:

My typewriter has been away for repairs or I would have answered your letter more promptly. Thanks for the order and for the check which came today.

Think you are right as to labels of Belgians returned. I had them thus originally but on receipt of a catalog of the sale of a famous French collection-illustrated- I changed my description to correspond with the same items in that sale. I think you are right about it.

Did you think the death's head medal was allied to the black and white shield of the East Prussia frontier guard?

If you hear of anyone who would like to purchase my duplicates as a whole, I would sell the whole cheap and donate a percentage to the A.N.S. Some visitor might want to start a collection of this kind and what I have would be a good nucleus. My prices beside Proskey and Bannerman seem to be of the Woolworth or Kresge type. With best wishes for a Happy Christmas to you and yours, I am

Sincerely

C. S. G.
Gifford

December 22nd, 1925

Mr. C. S. Gifford
Box 5274
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Gifford:

I really think that that Death Head Medal is not very closely allied to the black and white shield of East Prussia, as the Arms are the common Arms of East Prussia which has come down from the old Teutonic Order - however, that is just my opinion!

Today a Mr. N. Theo Lundell has written in asking from whom he could buy Decorations, and I have given him your name.

With the Compliments of the Season,

Very truly yours,

Curator

December 30th, 1925

C. S. Gifford, Esq.
P.O. Box 5274
Boston, 4, Mass.

Dear Mr. Gifford:

I am very glad that you are taking up the matter of the awarding of our medals in times of Peace. I think that this should be done, and I will take it up with both Mr. Howell and Mr. Gilchrist; possibly, one or the other may present the question at the Annual Meeting on Saturday, the 5th.

I wish to thank you very much for the Saxon Commemorative medal which you so kindly have sent for our Christmas gift cabinet. We appreciate your support.

Wishing you the best for the New Year,

Very truly yours,

Curator

CARLETON S. GIFFORD
340 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

January 2 1925

Dear Mr. Wood:

I have your letter and am glad you, regardless of the Society, approve my move for proper peacetime recognition of service and bravery by the Government equal to that in wartime.

I have asked Cong. Tinkham to cut redtape and action of fusty old War boards and get the thing done. I imagine his hands are tied fast and is powerless.

Further, I wrote LIBERTY MAGAZINE that I thought the design of their medal for bravery (accompanied by a check for \$1000.) was entirely unworthy themselves or the recipient. Tho in gold, a crude affair struck off by some foundry, designed by them as well probably, and identical with the atrocious designs to returned soldiers of the recent war awarded by cities and towns of the U.S.

Design and execution is nothing so long as the medal is of metal and hangs from a string. I did not spare criticism nor did I consider how it would be received. I wound up by saying that "doctors are for the sick: lawyers for litigants" and before they issued a medal, a numismatist should be called in- the ANS being the very best-and only- authority.

I expected to be ignored but instead received a very kind letter from Deuell, managing editor, with thanks and they would be glad to use my suggestion in connection with future awards. Is this a matter for the annual meeting? Yours

C.S.G.

CARLETON S. GIFFORD
340 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

January 9 1926

Dear Mr. Wood:

I am glad that you approve my drive for adequate recognition by the Government for bravery on the part of the service in times of peace. I hope it will bring fruit.

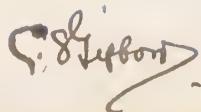
I received yesterday a letter from Mr. Kewell endorsing my suggestion and I trust the Council of the ANS will concur. As you and the Society know most everything numismatic before it happens, I hesitate to ask if you know that Massachusetts has evolved a MEDAL FOR VALOR in bronze?

Designed by Parhamino, it is a simple laurel wreath in the centre of which is the shield bearing the arms of the state. I asked Col. Barrows (he who wrote the Transcript article on my exhibit at the Art Museum two years ago, and was formerly Inspector General of Rifle Practise and a member of Gov. Coolidge's staff) to see what he could do towards getting specimens for the ANS, Gillingham and myself.

I enclose his report. I still have other strings to pull and if you have any others yank them also.

Last night the BNS hauled me again into the Presidency. Would you, if you plan to be in Boston anytime in future, read an original paper of general interest at one of the meets? We would arrange the date to suit your convenience.

Sincerely,



January 15th, 1926

C. S. Gifford, Esq.
P.O. Box 5274
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Gifford:

Mr. Gillingham has been ill and was not at the Annual Meeting on Saturday last. I have sent him your letter but as yet have received no word from him, so cannot tell you of his reaction to your proposal re. the issuing of a medal of Valour in peace time.

I have not heard of the design of the Bravery medal in the Liberty magazine. And I had not heard of the Medal for Valour (Massachusetts). I have just written to the Adjutant General to see if we could get one from another tack than yours, and working independently. If I get turned down on this, I have another method of approach.

I do not know when I shall get to Boston again; but if I do go and do not forget your request, I will let you know.

Very truly yours,

Curator

C. S. GIFFORD
P. O. BOX 5274
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
(36 TEMPLE PLACE)

March 11
1927

Dear Mr. Wood:

Shepard Pond whom I think you have met and who is Secy. of the BNS wants to join the Royal Numismatic. I have written Allan proposing him. Will you drop a line seconding him?

He is a mighty nice and well-informed chap and makes a splendid secretary for us.

I see you have dropped into WHO'S WHO.
Congratulations and best wishes.

Sincerely

C. S. Gifford

March 11, 1927

Mr. C. S. Gifford,
P. O. Box 5274,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Gifford:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter of March 11th. As per your request, I have written to Mr. John Allan seconding Shepard Pond's proposal for membership.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HV:MB

CARLETON S. GIFFORD
340 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

March 11
1933

Mr. Howland Wood
American Numismatic Society
New York City.

Dear Mr. Wood:

At the Boston Numismatic dinner you will recall that I, since my quest for the Navy Medals had been successful, intended to bring all possible pressure to bear to acquire those of the Army. My Congressman, George Tinkham, is carrying the matter in person to the Secretary of War and I gather that the defense is weakening a bit.

You made mention that exceptions had been made in the past in the persons of two army officers who had been allowed to have the medals. Do you know who those officers were or can you ascertain their identity for me? My source of information in this regard would not, of course, be revealed. If you can do so, I would appreciate it. Did you get any encouragement at the Siamese Legation in Washington in furthering your request for the Siamese Victory Medal? I had in mind to write the American adviser to the King in Bangkok and see what he can do for me but I might do better thru Washington.

I hope you can locate those officers.

Sincerely,



March 13, 1933.

Mr. Carleton S. Gifford
340 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Gifford:

Although I think two or three men in the service were allowed to purchase our campaign badges the only one I can remember today is Lt-Comdr. Ross F. Collius, 4343 Campbell St., Kansas City, Mo. At this date I cannot remember whether he was allowed to buy the Army ones or not but I should think so. He is a nice sort of fellow and if you will drop him a line he can give you the whole information. For the life of me I cannot think of the other one. I have been extremely busy the past six weeks finishing up an article and I have not as yet written to Siam about the Victory Medal. I am glad you reminded me of it.

Very truly yours,

JW:JG

C. S. GIFFORD
P. O. BOX 5274
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Mar 11/73

Dear Mr. Wood.

Thanks for name of
officer. Could it be compatible
for the A.N.S. when applying for the
Siamese Victory to get one for me?
or ask to have one sent to
me independently & so billed or
for you to give me the name of
source of supply in view that
yours comes from so that I can
write myself if it can not be
handled as above. I only suggest
the first two to save an extra
trip $\frac{1}{2}$ way around the world.

C. S. GIFFORD

March 17, 1933.

Mr. C. S. Gifford
Box 5274
Boston, Massachusetts.

Dear Mr. Gifford:

I have just written to the Siamese Embassy at Washington to see what they could do for us about a Siamese Victory Medal, in fact asked them for two. I will let you know what I hear from them.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator

MAINSTAY
DUXBURY, MASSACHUSETTS
P. O. BOX 262, TELEPHONE 99.

July 25/33

Dear Dr. Wood:

Are you successful
in getting Siamese Tictors? I wrote
Freeman in Rio to locate Brazil
Tictors. He sent me cards of two
traders but advised us that it is hard
to get. He says and you necessary -
When I try do you want me to
includ one for you or leave you it?

I succeeded in getting budget of Asiatic Star
in Duxbury sale - I have been
writing down various price lists
but its operation - hope to get back
to work soon now.

C. S. Gefford

C. S. GIFFORD
P. O. BOX 5274
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

August 15
1933

Dear Mr. Wood:

I received your letter a month ago but I had a severe setback about then and am just getting back to my desk. Thanks so much for information regarding Victories. It seems as if you were in a fair way to get the Siamese and Brazilian. I am, however, writing the dealers at Rio and if I am fortunate enough to get an extra I will be gladly ready to place it at your disposal if you do not get the two you ask for.

If you still want to see it in the fall I will send you that N.Y. life saving group I told you of - 3 to Karl Rapregger.

Sincerely,

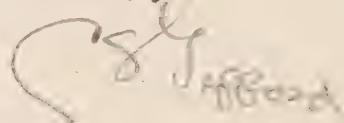
C. S. GIFFORD
P. O. BOX 5274
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

September 25
1933

Dear Mr. Wood:

I have not heard anything as yet from Brazil regarding Victory medal but should in due time as I wrote two dealers. I congratulate you on getting the gold Huey Long medal and I see by the paper this a.m. that duplicates are being sold at 25c. each- some 50,000 sold so far. Can you tell me where I can get some?

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive ink, appearing to read "C. S. Gifford".

September 26, 1933.

Mr. C. S. Gifford
Box 1791
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Gifford:

Like you I have not heard as yet concerning the Brazilian Victory medal. I wrote them again at the time I wrote you last.

We had a great time last Wednesday at the presentation of the medal to the swatter of Huey Long. It is a large gold medal about four by three inches - must have several hundred dollars worth of gold. The reason for this expense was that the committee had so many contributions that they had to spend all the money. By writing the Medallie Art Company at 210 E. 51st Street, New York City, you can get small replicas of this medal at 25¢ each.

Very truly yours,

RW:JG

Curator

October 6, 1933.

Mr. C. S. Gifford
Box 1791
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Gifford:

I have just heard from Siam and they sent us what they call the War Medal, a silver medal with the head of the King Brahma VI. This was given for those who served in the Great War in Europe. They also sent us one copy of their Victory Medal. It is a very handsome piece and I should judge was made in France by the workmanship. Therefore it strikes me that you might possibly be able to get one in Paris. I also asked them for their decorations but they sent only photographs. I can see from these that most of them are jewelled and would be a very expensive proposition for them to give us, especially as they have been having trouble in Siam in recent years and the cost of running the government is entirely too much. I have not yet heard from the Brazilian medal.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator

Did I tell you I obtained the Fleece from Austria formerly that
of Count Apponyi. Beautiful condition with ribbon and special
gold collar for wear with native dress by permission of Emperor

C. S. GIFFORD
P. O. BOX 5274
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

October 7

1933

Dear Mr. Wood:

I am glad that you at last received the Siamese items. I shall try my Paris dealers but Mathis, the French writer on Victories, tells me it is a rare bird and very hard to get. I still have a faint hope that I can get one in Siam. My daughter went to boarding school with a princess of Siam for four years and when the Crown Prince-now King- was in Boston she lunched with them at the Copley-Plaza.

Just what that friendship will do to get me the medals is problematical but I shall try it on. I wrote two dealers in Brazil on August 24th about Victories and asked in addition one for you. Being Latin-American I judge that "Manana" is the business rule and I will hear only when I hear. When I do I will let you know. I received the Hueys from Medalllic Art- thanks to your suggestion- and they certainly are clever. They always cause a chuckle by those who see them.

Sincerely,

C. S. GIFFORD

May 4, 1934.

Mr. C. S. Gifford
Box 5274
Boston, Mass.

Dear Gifford:

I think I wrote you awhile ago that I had received one specimen only of the Siamese Victory medal. Today I have received from the Brazilian Embassy in answer to my letter of March 17, 1933 four medals as follows:

Knight of the Order of the Southern Cross
War Cross
Victory Medal
Military Good Service Medal.

Very truly yours,

H.W.J.G

Curator

Order of Universal Morality with Grand Master's record book and
a badge of order. Glendining sold a breast star of "Order of
La Maestranza da Valencia" last month. I cannot place it. csg

C. S. GIFFORD
P. O. BOX 5274
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

May 7 1934

Dear Mr. Wood:

I wish I had your pulling power in not only getting medals but also in getting them for "nuttin". I have been two years combing Brazil and Europe for the Brazilian Victory as well as hunting for the Siamese. Thus far I have drawn an absolute blank but I have found so often that some of my best things have come from unexpected sources so I live in hope. Such popped in the other day- a lead confederate medal. Obverse; date "Oct. 8, 1862" over a wreath with rifles crossed thereon- at bottom some wording has been scratched off, a name possibly. Reverse: "Volunteer Infantry C.S.A. First Regiment" around another wreath which may have^{had} some wording in centre but whole piece, being of lead, is much worn. Mebbe rare, mebbe not.

I finally received DSM of Navy and later obtained Knox Gun-pointer medal and Bailey medal in gold.

I shall soon be packing up for summer storage as we go to the country by first of June.

I am glad my hint ~~proxed~~ proved to be successful, and with best wishes I am,

Sincerely, *C. S. Gifford*

P.S. I am still hold field on Imperial Asiatic

May 9, 1934.

Mr. C. S. Gifford
Box 5274
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Gifford:

My pulling power seems to be rather good but dreadfully slow, especially when it has to do with minor foreign powers. I am enclosing a photograph of this Brazilian Victory medal. I never heard of the Confederate medal - it certainly must be rare. The Bailey medal in gold is very rare and the Knox Gun Pointer medal is rare also. The Sons of the Revolution of Massachusetts gets out another one for the Cavalry.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator

July 20th, 1934

Mr. Carleton S. Gifford
Box 5274

Dear Mr. Gifford:

In case you have not received the last number of The Coin Collector's Journal, I am sending you one (under separate cover) which contains an article on the Victory Medal.

I trust that you are enjoying - if such a thing is possible - the present summer.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW/S

C. S. GIFFORD
P. O. BOX 1791
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

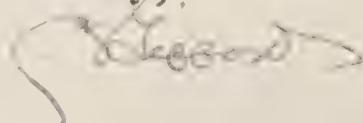
July 24
1934

Dear Mr. Wood:

The article on the Victory Medals has come and I am greatly pleased with it and thank you for remembering me in that connection.

I have not as yet landed the Siamese, Brazilian or South African type of British. In the fall when I get back to town, I am going to start a systematic search for these even to applying to the Legations or Embassys of the countries excepting Britain which I can finally get in London. This summer has been a wilter but just now for several days we have had the boon of Boston's east wind but gosh how we need rain- if we are to eat next winter!

Sincerely,



C. S. GIFFORD
P. O. BOX 1791
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

April 24 1935

Dear Mr. Wood:

I suppose the Society has the Navy medals: Trenchard, Bailey (gold) and Knox. I have finally-after two years- acquired them on the strength of my original authorization.

I have not yet been able to get the Siamese and Frazilian Victorys or even copies but I have started on a new tack recently and hope for the best.

I suppose, also, you know that the BNS is striking a silver medal as Pond has written you ~~for~~ regarding possible foreign awards. The medal will be presented gratis with name of recipient engraved thereon and accompanied by a certificate signed by President and Secretary. Why not? We do not have 75ths very often.

Will you send me a copy of Gillingham's latest with bill?

Sincerely,

C. S. Gifford

April 26, 1935.

Mr. Carlton S. Gifford
Box 1791
Boston, Mass.

Dear Gifford:

I am glad to hear from you once again and I am glad that you have at last gotten the three medals you mention. We have the Bailey medal in gold given to midshipmen and the two Knox medals, one given to the navy and the other to the army. The Trenchard medal we are not familiar with. In fact, to the best of my recollection, I have never heard of it. Could you give us a rubbing or drawing of it and also what it was given for and by whom?

I received the other day a letter from Shepard Pond telling about the forthcoming 75th anniversary medal. On receipt of this letter I promptly paid my dues! I have been away much of the past two weeks so have not been able to answer Shepard Pond's letter, as there is some looking up to be done.

Very truly yours,

HM:JG

Curator

C. S. GIFFORD
P. O. BOX 1791
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

April 27 1935

Dear Mr. Wood:

The Trenchard Medal is in the same category as the Bailey and Knox.

It is known as the Edward Trenchard Medal and is bestowed by Admiral Trenchard Section 73 of the Navy League. It is given in July to the set of three turret pointers who do the best in short range battle practice.

I wrote in January 1933 asking for it and just the other day I received a letter in answer to mine "of some time ago". Letter said I had been awarded it by vote of committee. I wrote back appreciation promptly but do not expect to get the medal till 1937.

The secretary is a woman which may account for something. I will let you know when I get the medal then you can start operations.

I am afraid two requests close together might ruin their system. I am not bothering with the various marksman medals of the Navy.

They are numerous and hideous. Did you see that the ~~Na~~ War Dept. finally after 14 years acknowledges that at my door is laid the the original suggestion that the Purple Heart be revived which was done in 1932. Speed is entirely confined to warships. Sincerely,

S. J. Gifford

C. S. GIFFORD
P. O. BOX 1791
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

March 13 1936

Dear Mr. Wood:

I enclose a photo of something I picked up recently. Does it mean anything to you? Gold. Diamond at tails. Rose diamonds in crown ribbons and letter on blue shield in centre. Hook on back above diamond also pin with catch across back. It is Austrian without doubt but nothing that I have, including the portfolio of colored plates which you also have, gives it. Evidently used as suspender for some order or decoration since it has hook on back. Did you ever get your Brazil Victory? I feel I may be successful thru several contacts I have made in Brazil that is if it is possible to get it all. I have asked for two and you get one if you still are without a specimen. I am quite sure that I shall get the Siamese direct as I have been wangling and pulling strings thru American influence there and I was told that if I wasn't turned down by a certain date that I would later receive the medal. That date has long since, month or more, passed so the outlook is promising. If you cannot identify enclosed, do you know of good authority in Austria who might if I wrote him. Great loss to BNS in Pond's retirement but he has served long and in very, very satisfactory manner and has well earned his relief. Stafford will do well.

Sincerely

March 16, 1936.

Mr. C. S. Gifford
Box 1791
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Gifford:

Outside of your decoration being Austrian I can tell you nothing about it as I have never seen one of these. My guess would be it is what is known as a household or personal decoration, the personal gift of a sovereign - generally the Empress. The center has an M which confirms my belief in this theory, although I cannot stick my finger on any Empress who did have that initial, unless it is sometimes known as Maria.

We got our Brazilian Victory medal sometime ago together with the Order of the Southern Cross, War Cross and Military Good Service Medal. The four pieces came in a box divided in four compartments.

Very truly yours,

H.W.:JG

Curator

C. S. GIFFORD
P. O. BOX 1791
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

November 2 1936

Dear Mr. Wood:

I finally acquired the Siamese Victory medal and now I am after that of Brazil.

As a last resort I wrote the Ambassador of Brazil and asked him to see if he could persuade his home office to help a struggling collector to gain his ends. That was about three weeks ago and no reply whatever has come from Washington. Didn't you have a similar experience when you went after the same medal?

Maybe I am mistaken but didn't your first intimation that your request had gone thru come when you received the medal itself? I wrote the same Embassy some years ago on some numismatic matter and never received a reply so courtesy is not one of their virtues.

I was sorry not to see you when I called last August. My wife and I were awaiting the arrival of the Ile de France which was bringing our daughter home from a year in Paris and we bussed out beyond you and stopped on the return. Everything we wanted to see of course was "closed during August".

My object in writing was to see if my memory was correct and thus still have hope that they might comply with my request.

With best wishes, Sincerely,

C. S. Gifford

November 5, 1936

Mr. C. S. Gifford,
P.O. Box 1791,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Gifford:

My recollections about the Brazilian Medal is somewhat dim. I do know that I wrote both the Embassy in Washington, one or two people in Brazil and got no response from any of them. I had virtually given up hope when, if I remember correctly, about a year or so afterwards, there came out of the blue not only the Victory medal but three other medals they gave out during the war. I have mislaid my papers concerning these but I am very sure it was really through the instrumentality of the Brazilian Embassy at Washington.

I was sorry not to have been here when you were here last summer, but I was trying to work in a vacation just at that time. We were a little more shut down this year than generally as my assistant was in bad shape most of the summer.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW ks

C. S. GIFFORD
P. O. BOX 1791
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

November 6 1936

Dear Mr. Wood:

Thanks for your letter. I wrote you just one day too soon. The day following I received a very cordial letter from the First Secretary of the Brazilian Embassy in which he said that he had forwarded my request with recommendations and hoped his government would consider my request favorably etc.,etc. I must confess I "done 'em wrong". It would seem from that letter that my chances were fairly good.

As I review my efforts of the past ten years to complete this series, I wonder if there is any complete set outside of yours in this country and while Brazil is still in doubt I have no complaint with the way Both Siam and Brazil received and acknowledged my requests.

We had young Archie Roosevelt at our last meeting. He is a freshman at Harvard and so much interested in Greek and Roman that he wrote the N.Y. Society for a contact with us here. Very slim meeting as he came into the picture at the 11th hour. With much thanks for your letter.

Sincerely,



Howland Wood

Gifford, Carlton S.

1937

P.O. Box 1791
Boston

January 16 1937

Dear Mr. Wood:

Has the ANS in its cabinets of orders and decorations a badge and breast star of an order which for want of a better name is called that of Deldir or D'Eldir? For some four or five years I have been trying to locate insignia of that order and about three years ago I picked up a chevalier's badge in London.

Recently it occurred to me to go thru the priced catalogs of Glendining's auction sales over a period of 18 years and I found that in 1922 a badge and breast star had been sold as one lot.

I wrote Glendining to see if their records might reveal to whom the item was knocked down but his books of that year were packed away in storage and not available. I then wrote various London dealers but in the wrong order as it was from the last one to whom I wrote that I got what I wanted. It was Baldwin and he revealed that he bought it for stock and there too, records were not available as during the firm's alterations and movings they had been lost. The writer, however, seemed of the opinion that that particular lot had been sold to either Gillingham or to Saltus. If Gillingham had bought it, he would have attempted to find out something about it or maybe have mentioned it in his ANS monograph on "Ephemeral Orders". He consulted me about a great number of his "mysteries" but he never mentioned that. As to Saltus, if he were alive then, I doubt if he would have bought anything but what was wellknown, rare or had a history. Baldwin goes on to say that "it is quite likely that it found its way to the Metropolitan Museum in New York as we used to ship quite a lot before the duty was imposed." There is an out about that in that the Museum would not have been obliged to pay duty any more than your Society would have had to do. Have they a collection of orders? If so, I will write merely to eliminate their chance of having the Deldir. I am writing Gillingham to see if he recalls it and if you would be kind enough to let me know if the ANS has this insignia and whether there is a chance that the Metroploitan might have it I would greatly appreciate it.

Dr. Wheeler writes me that he has consulted you about the disposition of Horace Wheeler's collections. Wheeler had some good coins and probably an auction sale would be the best outlet for them as there are so many collectors and dealers. I feel that concerning the orders and decorations that the results would be disappointing because there is nothing in the lot that is more than mediocre. He sent me a list-which I have just mailed back to him- and I saw nothing in it especially that interested me. If it had been replete with items such as the Senter sale, I would say put it at auction. Dealers would give him nothing and peddling it out would be a chore so I suppose an auction is the best thing but after deducting commision and other charges, I am afraid the net result will not be large. I would like to get the St. Michael and St. George, if he is willing to sell it reasonably, for two reasons.

If you recall you originally steered that my way by suggesting to a young Danish chap-whose name escapes me- that he try me. The insignia he sent over to me with his price and as it happened Wheeler made one of his occasional calls on me that very day. I

Showed him the order and I never saw him so excited or eager in his

contact with me as he was about that order. He made several palpable hints that he wanted it very much and on the impulse I withdrew in his favor. The price was too high and I succeeded in reducing for Wheeler, got our bank check for him etc. He was pleased as punch over the matter and I told him then that if and when he came to the point where he should sell it, I wanted the opportunity and he agreed that my suggestion was most reasonable. He never mentioned the transaction again nor did I.

You know he never mentioned the extent of his collection to anyone because he was in fear of being robbed if the value or extent of it should be known. He even had a safe in his room in which it was carefully kept.

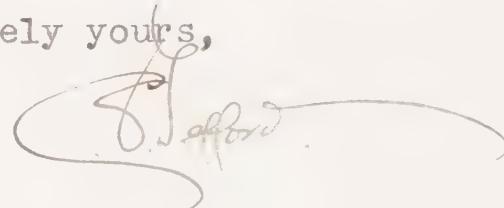
I have not yet heard from Brazil Government regarding my Victory medal but they are slow as you know and it may be a year before I hear.

I dont think there is much doubt but what I will get it as the Embassy secretary in Washington implied that it was just a matter of form.

I wonder if there is any other private collection of Victories in U.S. I rather doubt it to be complete judging from my own experience as I combed all the dealers in England, Belgium, France and Germany that I knew and drew a blank in every instance. Nearly all said they had had frequent orders but had been unable to fill them and did not know where it was possible to get the series complete.

I have run on a great length I see and I trust the reading will not be a burden.

Sincerely yours,



January 18, 1937

Mr. C. S. Gifford,
P.O. Box 1791,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Gifford:

I am afraid I cannot help you on locating the insignia of Deldir. I cannot find we have any such thing. We do have, however, several unclassified decorations. If you could give me a rough drawing or description, I will see if it matches up with any of ours. I do not remember anything like this coming from Gillingham or Saltus.

I never knew that the Metropolitan Museum collected decorations. They have a few that were given them such as a fine display of Japanese that were given by the Japanese Government to some rich man touring the world, and which later were turned over to the Metropolitan.

I advised Dr. Wheeler that probably in the end he would be better by putting Horace Wheeler's things in an auction, either Elder or Bolender. If you want that order of St. Michael, why don't you write to Dr. Wheeler, making him an offer, telling him the story and what Wheeler paid for it.

As far as I know, there is no very complete collection of Victory medals anywhere. I have never heard of a complete collection nor have I ever seen any account of all of them.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW ks

C. S. GIFFORD
P. O. BOX 1791
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

January 20
1937

Dear Mr. Wood:

There were several models or types of the Deldir Order: in some, a woman's turbaned head; in others, a palm tree. These were the centre of the obverse but on both, the identifying feature was the name DELDIR on the enamelled band around the centre. The first model was entirely different: a red greek cross imposed on a white greek cross with a monogram in script in the centre but if you have any it would likely be the first named. As I said in my previous letter, I think it was a wild guess that it went to Gillingham or to you. G. was always hunting the odd and unusual in orders and he tied it up with him. I feel I have gone as far as I can comfortably with Dr. Wheeler. I have told him I would like the CMG and he wants me to make an offer for it but that I will not do as I do not propose to be the man to make an offer and the next man who offers 50c. more gets it. Nor will I send a mail auction bid for the reason that it might be a day when low prices prevail or a day when high ones are the rule. You cannot sense the temper of the bidders and you powerless to raise your bid by a nickel and you cannot get the item for less than your bid- that is, I never have in the days way back when I did bid occasionally. If he will put a price on anything I will let him know immediately whether I will buy otherwise I will have nothing to do with it. I do

C. S. GIFFORD
P. O. BOX 1791
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

not like the position of selling and buying at the same time.

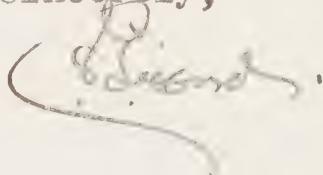
When I get my Brazilian Victory - if I do - I feel sure that I shall have perhaps the only full set of Victories outside yours and possibly other museums. I base this on the fact that I have had standing orders with nearly a dozen dealers abroad for 5 or 10 years for Brazil, Siam, Japan and others but they have not had copies of these 4 at any time.

It was only thru my daughter's going to school with a Siamese princess and their good friendship that the Siamese Government sent their Victory to me gratis and with their compliments. That was also responsible for the action of the Brazilian Embassy.

Without these drags I think I would be a longer time before I picked up Siam and Brazil.

Thanks very much for your letter. I have not yet heard from Gillingham and I am doubtful if he can give me any news.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive ink, appearing to read "C. S. Gifford".

Mr. C. S. Gifford,
P.O. Box 1791,
Boston, Mass.

January 23, 1937

Dear Mr. Gifford:

With the description you have given me, I find we have a badge similar to that you mention. It has been in the Society for many years, I think before I came here. Who gave it to us I do not know.

Ours is gilt, 1-5/8" across, composed of a star of 16 points, ball tipped, with a turbaned head on a rayed field in center. Around on blue enamel, DEIDER ONE MOGOLI. On the reverse a palm tree and the the band GLORIE A DIEG. The ribbon on this piece is blue white blue in equal stripes.

We have never known what it was all about. I had it tucked away among unassigned pieces but when you spoke of a turbaned head and palm tree I recognized it once that we had such a piece.

I trust that you will be able to get the St. Michael medal from Dr. Wheeler and eventually get all of the Victory medals. There is a French imitation of the Japanese Victory medal that is so good you can hardly tell it from the original.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW ks

C. S. GIFFORD
P. O. BOX 1791
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

January 25
1937

Dear Mr. Wood:

That is DELDIR alright! and, I should judge, a chevalier's badge. I cannot verify that as my collection is in the bank vault but your seal at the top of your letter is almost 1 3/8" and that is about the size of my specimen which is of that grade. The ribbon is not correct for, as I wrote you, it should be a dull green with dull yellow edges very similar to the Lion of Zahringen in make-up but the colors much subdued. I doubt that your specimen came from Baldwin as their specimen was accompanied by the breast star and usually they are not separated in a sale and dealers like to sell them as a lot particularly when an order is so little known. I think Baldwin felt he had to tell me something but, as a matter of fact, I think it was just a vague idea. I have written the Metropølitan just to see if they do have it but I doubt that it will be there. I dont know if this is a proper question to ask but would the Society consider selling Deldir to me? If this were a wellknown order or one in any demand, I would not ask this. I do know sometimes museums sell things they do not want to get something they do want or as an accumulation

C. S. GIFFORD
P. O. BOX 1791
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

to a fund for some particular use. If this happens to be so in your case, I would be glad to buy it.

I have not heard from Gillingham in answer to my letter of inquiry about DELDIR. Do you know if he is away?

Annual meeting of the BNS tonight and I wish you were to be here. Our meetings are pretty slimly attended these days and we shall miss Wheeler, Clinton Stearns and Dr. Swain all of whom have died in the last few months. There is no one in my field but Mr. Willey and he is close to 80 years old and does not collect. I make every effort to attend meetings, however, and have missed but very few.

I feel that as out of about 35 members only 8 or 10 attend each month that I should be there if I possibly can.

I appreciate the time you have given to my request and thank you.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "C. S. Gifford". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

January 26, 1937

Mr. C. S. Gifford,
P.O. Box 1791,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Gifford:

Your letter at hand. The Deldir medal is of no especial use to us, especially as we do not know what it is and as far as I am concerned you can have it. I suppose it is worth at least \$2.00 or \$3.00 but give us anything you think it is worth. By its weight it seems as though it might be gold. I am herewith enclosing it.

You probably will hear from Gillingham if you have not already done so evidently before answering it sent your question on to us.

I would like to have been at the B.N.S. meeting. As a matter of fact I was in Boston Thursday as my brother-in-law, George H. Marvin, died and his funeral was that day. As you may remember, the day was rather rainy and I had no chance to see anybody as I came back the next day.

On my return I found my assistant, Mr. Robertson, had dropped dead early Friday morning. We are now looking for a good man to fill his shoes but know of no one around here who would answer the purpose. I do not suppose you could think of any one. One problem is going to be that we cannot pay enough for an assistant to make it worth while for many people to choose this position for an occupation.

Very truly yours,

Curator

H.W. ks
encl.

C. S. GIFFORD
P. O. BOX 1791
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

January 28
1937

Dear Mr. Wood:

I was greatly pleased to receive the Deldir which came safely due in large part to the careful packing. I am further glad that I may purchase it and I am enclosing \$3. therefor as you suggest. It is not gold but the gilding is liberal and done in the old, substantial way they did 75 years ago when artisans took pride in their craft. The badge is an extreme variant in that it is not enamelled as to the arms and has no crown suspender. Many, many thanks for and appreciation of your kindness.

We elected Nichols as Pres. of the BNS with Pond as Treas.-the other officers remain the same. Nichols has a lot of good ideas and a seemingly inexhaustible supply of energy and push to put them thru. His one ambition is to get new members and keep them interested with interesting meetings. If anyone can cope with this task , he can. You have my sympathy for the loss of your assistant and it would be a marvellous job for someone who did not have to depend on it for all his income. He, under your tutelage, would gain a most comprehensive idea in the field of numismatics. If I hear of such a person I will gladly let you know. With renewed thanks, I am,

Sincerely yours,

(Signature)

C. S. GIFFORD
P. O. BOX 1791
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

March 9
1937

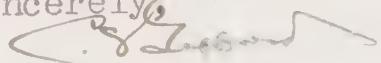
Dear Mr. Wood:

I received Elder's catalog of the Wheeler sale. HLW certainly had a lot of stuff tucked away that nobody knew about. He was in fear of being robbed so never divulged his holdings, Elder's descriptions are amusing as usual. Item 2180: Papal order of St. Gregory is an "Oriental piece" and Item 2209 attributes the Sacred Treasure to China. I hope his coin descriptions are better.

I shall make no bids as I only do in auctions when I don't care whether I get them or not.

I made some bids in Stack's next sale but I put them low and will be entirely satisfied if I dont get them and as I feel the same about Elder's, I shall not even bid. Another reason more potent regarding the latter is that I am sailing for Italy out of Boston March 28th. and shall browse around for specimens which will be more to my liking. We go from Italy to Paris and to the coronation (not invited to the Abbey) and possibly later to Norway and Sweden, returning in July. I hope you have been able to replace your assistant satisfactorily and wish you 'good going' till I see you again.

Sincerely,



HÔTEL DE FLANDRE



BRUGES

TÉLÉGR. : FLANDRE - BRUGES

TÉLÉPHONE : 330.19

May 26, 1937

Dear Mr. Wood:

We are here in this
undulating place recuperating from the
strenuous days of celebration in Lon-
don. The weather was wretched but
here we have really hot sun. We sail
June 1 from Palais for the North Cape
and get back to U.S. about July 10^t.

I have picked up about 60 medals and
many of other brass medallions. A very
unusual group of Chinese or
Chiang Kai-shek - 7 in all - and I was
told they were unique and the first to reach
the western world. They are all in excellent
and determined to look at. I also got
the new Belgian for Belgian Congo -
a rather thin piece and are very cheap.

made. There was one, I thought that
I had never seen or heard of and of bronze,
one star paper imposed on another, given
by France to American "comrades".

It is not the Field Service but I
could not get a good description of
it from the shop. Another in bronze
for Americans hospitalized in France.

I am writing you especially to see
if you know this one - I spied it in a
shop in the Palais Royal in Paris a
bronze medal - apparently cast - with the
head of Pershing + his last name on ob-
verse with ⁴⁸ STATES in stars on reverse.

The ribbon was about $1\frac{3}{4}$ " wide & made up
of stripes $\frac{1}{16}$ " wide of all colors (allies?)
with a bronze bar with 13 stars on it.

I, of course, tried to get it but the shop
was closed. A man came into the shop just
after the Armistice and bought it and has
never been seen since. The shop has
changed hands and the new owner did
not know the story but was to require
of the former owner + if he thought they
had kept it long enough, they will sell

it to me. They seemed to think it was
of American origin. Have you ever heard
of it? We return from N. Cape about
June 14th then via the Göta Canal,
Jönköping & Örebro we reach Paris
again the last of June for a week or
so before we sail. I have had
another try for the Pershing medal
look in at the Hotel de Normandie to
see what I can get in exchange. I picked
up another "Order of Solidarity" like the one
you sent me only with different
dates. I would be glad to hear
of the Pershing medal if you know it
and if there is anything I can do
for you in Paris and I hear from
you by June 25th & will do my
best for you. If you want the
letters for Normandie, Europa or some fast
boat according to standard sailing twice
as fast get it on time. We had good
salts for the Coronation procession
and for the stupendous Naval Review.

at Spekehead - magnificent, both and
spectacles need to be forgotten -

The orders of the King & Queen,
Queen Mary & the Tudor Princesses
made my collection look rather
drab. I did see one at very close
range - the Garter given to Duke of
Monmouth by Charles II loaned to
the Royal Treasures exhibition by the Duke
of Buccleuch - never exhibited before.

It was set with diamonds - the whole
regalia - huge gems they were. Failed
to get a photo of it, especially printed
& had a chat with the Dowager
Viscountess of Hartcocks who ran the show -
with the above result. To sheer try for
more medals in Norway, Sweden & Den-
mark but to know nothing of where they
have them. I have run on longer
than I intended - hope it won't bore
you.

Fairly

How much did Wilson's
C.M.G bring + who
bought it?

To
Jefford

June 8, 1937

Mr. C. S. Gifford,
Messrs. Brown, Shipley & Co.,
123 Pall Mall,
London, England

Dear Mr. Gifford:

I certainly was glad to hear from you and I should judge from your letter you are having a very good and interesting time.

The medal you ask about especially, with the head of Pershing, I presume is like the one in you enclose. I know nothing about it except it was made by Pierre Roche, presumably a Frenchman. It looks like French casting rather than American; also, another similar, with a terribly poor portrait of Wilson, was also made by Roche. I have no information otherwise concerning this medal. Ours is without any suspension or ribbon and I do not think it was intended to be worn. At any rate, as far as I know, it has absolutely no official significance, and the clasp that you have seen was probably privately fixed up.

If you have time and any money left, I would appreciate it if you could get for us, if available, the new Italian medal for the Ethiopian campaign; also the field service and the Americans hospitalized in France. These are new to me. I will remit when I hear from you.

I envy you on the new Chinese decorations. I suppose these will, in the course of years, come along. I really do not know what Wheeler's decoration CMG brought.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW ks

Paris

June 26/37

Dear Mr. Wood:

I received your kind answer to my letter in Stockholm. One can't buy medals there or in Norway for as they say "we have had no war for 100 years and so, have no medals." But they won't sell anything unless you have an award.

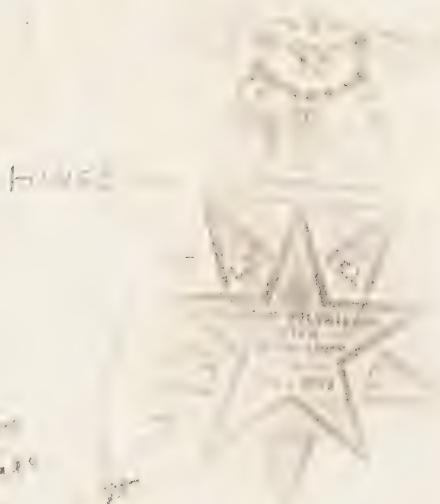
In Copenhagen I saw the Elephant and Castle in the Royal Palace. The first type on the former is done gold - no enamel - wide he said, of the King etched on the side - a deer gold chain with it. The other mantle ornaments of the Palace known are here too - given to the King of Denmark. I have seen Grand Crosses of all orders which satisfied me with

their jewels. I combed the medall
shops this morning but found
very one out of State in Boston
not to one for hospitalizes Amer.
Caus. I did get the state for the
American Volunteers & as I am
to be here Monday & Tuesday, I
will try again. There are many
new French medals - one for
Civilians held as hostages, & one for
Wives - which I bought. All I
bought at my previous call were
are in my trunk, due to be put
on the steamer at Southampton so,
as they were many, I am not sure
of their descriptions. When you are
next in Boston I will show them
to you and you may decide to
send for some of them. I said
on the de. dance to bolt out & go
and this by the Q. many as it is
a day quicker perhaps -

Hope to see you soon.

Sincerely S. P. Gilmore

BRONZE



BRONZE

W.H. C.
1944
P.M.

R VALOR
PLAIN

P E BAN

BROWN

RED WHIS

10
9
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1

100

C. S. GIFFORD
P. O. BOX 1791
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

July 20
1937

Dear Mr. Wood:

I sent off by letter mail last week the French medal to volunteers. I hope it reached you safely but I wonder as I have not heard from you. I also wonder if you did get it if you deciphered the various initials on the points of the star. I paid 75f. therefor which at the time was about \$3.20.

I enclose rubbing and ribbon in color of the medal I called that of Americans hospitalized in France. It apparently is not that at all. The cross of St. Andrew and the French fleur-de-lys suggests France and the Scottish Highlanders and does not seem to have any reference to U.S.A. When I bought it I was rushing to a luncheon engagement at Café de la Paix and while I get along finely with simple "I-see-the-dog-of-your-father" French but when I get enmeshed in technical French I fade out. I did hear the word "hôpital" however and jump at conclusions. I have no idea about it further but will be writing soon and will inquire the exact award.

I find no mention of it in a shop catalog I got. It seems good to be home. Three months is a long time to wrestle with foreign ways.

Sincerely,



July 21, 1937

Mr. Carlton S. Gifford,
Box 1791
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Gifford:

Your recent letter just at hand as well as the previous letter. I have delayed answering these as I have been hopping back and forth to the country and also I knew you would be busy as soon as you arrived home.

The medal you sent a rubbing of is perfectly all right and is a good thing. I am returning the rubbing with all about it on the back. It was given to members of Base Hospital #53 at Langroise.

The other medal for American Volunteers which you sent on, for which I am herewith enclosing check, is very nice. I have just worked out what all of the initials stand for.

LE equals Legion Etranger
EL Escouadrille Lafayette
AA Ambulance Americaine
NH Norton Harjes
AFS -- I am stumped on this unless it is American Field Service, but this is in English and all the other names are in French.

From your previous letter I should judge that you have picked up some treasures. I will try to call and see you the next time I am in Boston, but when this will be I do not know.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW ks
encl.

C. S. GIFFORD
P. O. BOX 1791
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

August 26
1937

Dear Mr. Wood:

I enclose a rubbing of a piece which I cannot identify or hazard a guess as to what it is except that it is Russian. The story is this. You no doubt recall the china firm of Richard Briggs in Boston which on the death of the last Richard Briggs sold out to somebody who still carries on under the name.

The last Briggs' widow recently sold off some things and this was among them. Her tale was that many years ago a man whom Briggs knew well could not pay his account and among the things he turned over in part settlement was this decoration which the man said was a very rare thing and told him the story of it. Briggs knowing the man well was impressed with the story and tucked the thing away in his safe. After Briggs' death it came to light and his widow recalled the transaction as her husband had told her of it but in the years between has entirely forgotten about it.

The coin-which Stafford thinks may be a ruble-is silver gilt and the suspender which is hand carved with the double headed eagle and a wreath surrounding it is apparently of gold- possibly gilt. From the date it is 200 years old and may be used as a medal and the whole a reward for

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a service to the Czar. Probably unique and we shall never know the story as Mr. Briggs heard it.

Hazelton, out in California, seems to be well-informed on Russian things. I sent him what I had in medals a few years ago and he identified them all and some were very rare. I haven't his address here but when I get back from my summer home I will dig it up and send him a photo of it. I only send it to you thinking you would like to see it.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "C. S. Gifford".

August 27, 1937

Mr. C. S. Gifford,
PO Box 1791,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Gifford:

Personally I would put very little stock in the medal of Peter the Great. For one thing, it is a regular silver ruble which has apparently been gilded and converted into a medal or badge. I have never heard of this and it may be as the previous owner stated, old and authentic, given by Peter to someone for some worthy cause. I cannot find any record of such a thing, but I do know that Russians have been very prone to make up all sorts of fancy decorations. We have several pieces here, having the semblance of a regular Russian decoration but are either hand made or the product of some jeweler.

Hazelton left California several years ago. He closed up his business and had some trouble with his wife. For a while afterwards he was living with an uncle somewhere in the Middle West but later letters sent to that address were never answered and we haven't heard anything about him now for several years.

I see that Stack here in New York is going to sell Faelton's coins.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW ks
encl.

C. S. GIFFORD
P. O. BOX 1791
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

October 22 1937

Dear Mr. Wood:

You may know about this but did you know that my protest case against a 65% duty on imports of medals, orders etc. which I won in 1924 and which for 13 years has permitted free entry to these items, has been overthrown? It is the most absurd decision in fact that I ever could imagine.

It has reference to an import of Wm.T. Dewart, the owner of the N.Y. Sun, which comprised the orders and medals of Prince von Buelow, former German Chancellor, which a friend or agent picked up in Europe for him.

It seems, which you probably know, that Dewart is a large collector of these things. The Customs soaked him 65% duty and he protested as I did but lost out because "There is no evidence in the record of their bestowal on said Prince, if so bestowed, or for what purpose." In my time, it was the classification as jewelry that I resented and its consequent duty. Now, all these hinge on the Par. 1717 of the Customs Code which says "Medals of gold, silver or copper.....actually bestowed by foreign countries etc." Such come in free. Gillingham's case read: "In that case it appeared the medals in question were not bestowed but were bought for a collection although not for sale." In my case (see the absurdity of the matter) "While it is true that there was no direct positive evidence of the actual bestowal

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of the medals involved upon any particular person, nevertheless the court was satisfied that the character of the article itself indicated that it was actually bestowed on someone for bravery."

My protested import was a chain of German things (some 6 or 7) and the only thing on it that could be attributed to bravery was an Iron Cross. Now my case, actually, did not differ a particle from Gillingham's or Dewart's, but the judges who know absolutely nothing about medals can never come to a fixed opinion about "bestowed". Medals etc. are nothing but evidences-visible- that the recipient has been given the right to wear them.

A friend at the Custom House has advised me to do this. Send for some cheap medal and when it comes it will be assessed 65% duty. Then with that concrete instance in hand, appeal to the Commissioner of Customs at Washington and see what happens. It seems a pity that one decision cannot be made that will stand for all time. The free list paragraph says "bestowed" but does not say upon whom. If you will send a dime to the Supt. of Documents, Washington and ask for a copy of Treasury Decisions, Vol. 72 No. 11 of Sept., 9, 1937 it will detail this Dewart case and Gillingham's, mine and several others are used as bases for the decision. It is on p. 17.

If I were younger, I would on the basis of this coming import of mine, fight the fight over again but once, single handed, is enough.

I hope this news may be of interest.

Sincerely,

C. S. Gifford

C. S. GIFFORD
P. O. BOX 1791
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Dear Mr. Wood:

I enclose prints of
the Italian Ethiopia & Balkans
(Comments on back of prints)
also Mérite Civil of France.

Keep these if you wish -
I have many others. Don't
bother to acknowledge -

S. G. G.

Nov. 22/31

Nov. 23, 1937

Mr. Carl S. Gifford,
P.O.Box 1791,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Gifford:

I was very much pleased to get the photographs of the Italian and the French medal that you sent on.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW s

back tab of original folder

Florange.